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January 15th, 1951
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# *Washington Highlights*

The U. S. Department of Interior has leased Government land for oil and gas exploration and development near Montecito, Santa Barbara and Goleta in California. The ground is in Los Padres National Forest and in an area known generally as the Santa Barbara Front Country since it lies between the city of Santa Barbara and the crest of the Coast Range. Between the towns of Montecito and Carpinteria the Interior Department also has granted 50 more leases embracing about 5000 acres.

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Signs here indicate the Federal Government will ask the Supreme Court for a rehearing of the Texas and Louisiana tidelands cases. Solicitor Gen. Phillip B. Perlman has requested and received an order from the high court giving him until January 25 to file a petition for rehearing. More than $35,000,000 could be involved in reopening of the cases. Perlman wanted the Gulf Coast States to pay this amount to the Government as representative of back revenues from tidelands. His viewpoint evidently is based on the assumption that ownership of their tidelands changed hands in the summer of 1947 when the Supreme Court ruled against California and decided that the Pacific Coast state was not the rightful owner of the tidal lands.

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Four California oil companies have explained to the Federal Government why it was found necessary to raise oil prices 25 cents a barrel. In short, they said the boost was made to meet increased labor costs and a sharp rise in consumer demand on the West Coast.

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The automobile in the West is a necessity not a luxury. This conclusion was drawn by Sen. Dworshak, Republican of Idaho, when he appeared before the Joint Economic Committee in opposition to the 15 months payment requirement inflicted on motor car buyers by the Federal Reserve Board. The Senator is in full agreement with the board that inflation should be curbed. However, he does not believe the restrictions imposed on automobile buying has such effect.

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Congress has been reassured by Chairman Gordon Dean of the Atomic Energy Commission that the United States is way ahead of Russia in the atomic bomb race and intends to hold its lead. Word received from Copenhagen denoted that Nobel Peace Prize Winner Ralph Bunche has "no views on moral grounds about the use of the atomic bomb." He believes all arms should be banned by agreement. Meantime, Korea's Defense Minister has urged the use of atom bombs on Russia's oil, rubber and steel sources. Sihn Sung Mo is reported to have said in an interview that the Soviet Union could be crippled "quickly and almost completely" by strategic use of the weapon.

Under a Senate resolution the Interior Committee has been granted a month extension to January First to round out its national fuels policy inquiry. A two-year extension has been requested by Chairman O'Mahoney, Democrat of Wyo., through 1951 and 1952. It was indicated that the two-year extension was rejected because it was held that the 81st Congress should not move in its closing days to tie up the next Congress to such a lengthy course of action.

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A new report has been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Mines containing data described as important in the design and operation of commercial retorts for extracting oil from oil shale. Copies are free. They may be obtained by requesting a copy of Report of Investigations 4744 from the Bureau of Mines, Publication Distribution Section, 4800 Forbes street, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

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It is a far cry from oil to Christmas trees, but at any rate Americans spent more than $50,000,000 for the time honored evergreens for the 1950 Yuletide. This was reported by the Agriculture Department.

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According to a joint survey by the SEC and the Commerce Department, American business proposes to expend a record of $21,900,000 for expansion in 1951. The only deterrent to such a program would be lack of manpower and materials.

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# Surface Casing Failures

By B. B. Smith
Vice President and Manager of Operations, Loffland Bros. Co.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

## ABSTRACT

In the recognition of the increasing amount of surface casing failures encountered by the drilling industry, the author analyzes possible causes of failure in surface strings and points to preventative measures. While it has been recognized as a fact that surface casing failures are the responsibiliity of the operator, unless that failure is a result of negligence on the part of the drilling contractor, the author says that, as a general rule, it is agreed that failure at the top of the string is more apt to be the responsibility of the contractor.

Most top failures are declared to result from not having the rotary table lined up, from failure to have a rubber protector on the kelly sub, or from a crooked kelly joint. Improper welding and cementing practices also contribute to failure of surface casings, the author says.

A better understanding between the operator and the drilling contractor when trouble is encountered in surface casing is urged. Future trouble and even the loss of a hole may be avoided if the trouble is taken care of when it is first noticed.

## SURFACE CASING FAILURES

In the past few years the drilling contractor has encountered an increasing amount of trouble with the failure of surface casing during the drilling of a well. It may be that the increase in total number of rigs running has made this problem appear to be more frequent, although there may not be any increase percentage-wise to the number of wells drilled. The increase, if any, is probably attributable to the fact that the shortage of casing has resulted in the use of a considerable amount of inferior surface pipe. This can be either second-hand pipe or pipe that is not the same weight, grade or type normally used. At the request of your Program Committee I have reviewed this situation with a number of contractors and operators and have put down their ideas as to the handling of surface casing, together with my own, and I hope the following will be of benefit to the industry in helping to eliminate or reduce this kind of trouble, which can cost the industry many thousands of dollars a year.

It has always been recognized as a fact that any surface casing failure has been the responsibility of the operator, unless that failure is a result of negligence on the part of the drilling contractor. As a general rule, it is agreed that failures at the top of the string are more apt to be the responsibility of the contractor, while failures at the bottom of the surface casing are seldom affected by the contractor's method of operating. Most top failures are a result of not having the rotary table lined up, or failure to have a rubber protector on the kelly sub, or a crooked kelly joint. The result of such practice would be the top joints being worn thin, or a hole being worn through the pipe in the top 45 feet, or a loosening and resultant failure of the top joints.

We all know that a hole started straight and kept straight will reduce the possibiliity of surface casing failures; therefore it is evident that the proper way to start a hole is to be sure that the rig is properly lined up and that all equipment is in its proper condition. In keeping the hole straight in some areas the proper procedure is to drill a small hole, taking surveys at intervals of from 100′ to but never to exceed 250′. The small hole will then be reamed out to the proper size with a pilot bit. It is not good practice to use a flat bottom bit, due to the fact that this type has a tendency to sidetrack the hole if a bridge is encountered while reaming down. A check survey should always be run at the bottom of the reamed out hole. Another practice is to drill a regular size hole; this is in areas where holes are easier to keep straight, or where smaller size surface casing is set. The rat hole and reaming practice is generally used where 10¾″ or larger size pipe is set. It is good practice to measure the surface casing on the casing rack at the time the surface hole is being made, in order to know the exact amount of hole that is required. It is not good practice to make too much hole and swing the casing too far off bottom. In this connection a lot of attention should be paid to the formation that the casing will set in. In wildcat areas the surface casing should be bottomed in lime or shale. If it is discovered that the amount of casing on hand requires a hole that will set the casing in sand, the contractor and the operator should get together and agree to drill on down until a more solid formation is encountered.

In my opinion it should be regular practice for all operators to run centralizers on their surface casing to insure centering of the pipe in the hole in order that the cement can get all around the casing for at least 100′ or more from bottom. Almost all operators are running centralizers on their long strings of casing but very few use them on their surface casing. To me, it is just as essential to run centralizers on surface casing as it is on the long string.

A combination float and guide shoe should be on the bottom of the casing, and an additional float valve should be used from 45′ to 60′ off bottom in order to keep all possible contaminated cement in the casing. Some trouble results when operators depend only on a combination float and guide shoe, then when the plug is pumped down all the contaminated cement is left around the bottom joints of the casing instead of up inside the casing as would be

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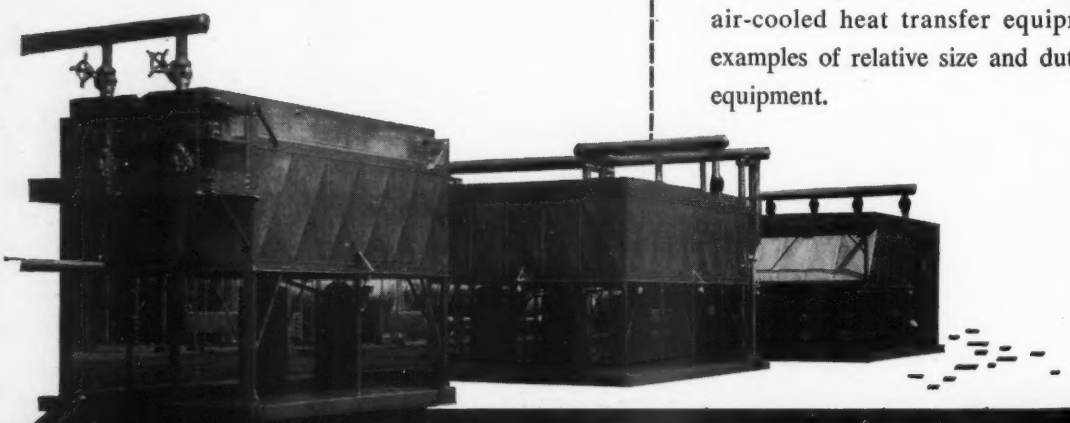

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| | Primary Condenser | 4,652,000 | 40 | 11′ x 25′ |
| | Still O.H. Condenser | 4,875,000 | 34 | 16′ x 21′ |
| | Debutanizer Condenser | 11,930,000 | 60 | 23′ x 25′ |
| | Still Reflux Condenser | 39,110,000 | 60 | 46′ x 25′ |
| | Steam Condenser | 87,300,000 | 300 | 138′ x 31′ |
| | Steam Condenser | 2,880,000 | 10 | 10′ x 6′ |
| LIQUID COOLING | Vegetable Oil Cooler | 628,000 | 15 | 6′ x 17′ |
| | Absorption Oil Cooler | 14,915,000 | 100 | 32′ x 17′ |
| | Quenching Oil Cooler | 1,665,000 | 50 | 23′ x 25′ |
| | Amine Solution Cooler | 19,300,000 | 175 | 38′ x 25′ |
| | Stabilized Crude Cooler | 125,100,000 | 700 | 315′ x 25′ |
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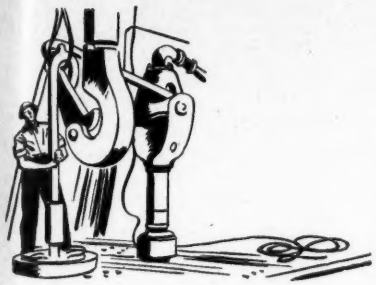


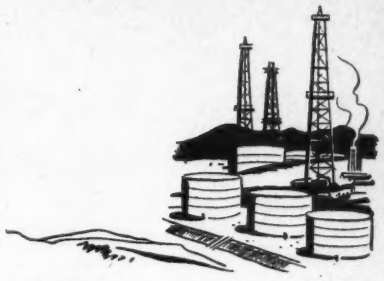
the case when an additional float valve is used.

The welding of surface casing is a very important factor. The casing should be made up tight, then spot welded in about four places of about 1½" in length around the top and bottom of the collar and floats. I believe it is bad practice to weld the pipe all the way around unless slip joint casing is being used; then of course it is essential to weld it all the way around, but then only with the proper kind of rod and proper amount of heat as recommended by the manufacturer of the casing. In many instances when threaded and coupled surface casing is welded in the field, the work is done by any oil field welder that is close by. He may never have had experience in welding casing and may not know any better than to weld the collars and floats all the way around. He may not know the proper size rod or the proper amount of heat to apply to the rod. Consequently the steel structure of the casing is broken down at the bottom of the weld, to the extent that it takes very little vibration to break the casing off. If for any reason the casing loosens up at the bottom of the string, the shoe or any one of the welded joints may break off, and your trouble starts when the casing drops down.

Particular attention should be maintained as to the proper amount of cement used in cementing surface casing. The operators that have the least trouble are the ones that use a sufficient amount of cement to cement the casing from bottom to the top of the string. The operator should figure the proper amount of cement it will take to fill the hole on the outside of the casing, then add a sufficient amount to take care of any possible cavities. Then after the plug is pumped down and let set a few hours, additional cement should be put in around the top either by dumping the proper amount in or by running some small pipe down beside the casing, then pumping in enough to finish filling around the casing. In some cases cement returns are noticed long before the plug is down. When this happens it is generally because the plug is pumped too slow and the cement has channeled. It is good practice to use as much volume as possible to pump the plug down in order to raise the full column of fluid around the outside of the casing in order to avoid this channeling. Another reason surface casing should be cemented to the top is that in all areas everyone is becoming more blowout preventer conscious and demanding the heavier blowout preventers anchored properly. When casing is left loose at the top it is impossible to anchor the preventers to where they will not vibrate and shake loose.

The proper procedure in drilling the plug in surface casing is to use a rock bit. A blade bit or drag bit has a tendency to hang up and may loosen the casing, or could possibly back the casing off. Particular attention should be paid to the rubber protectors used on the drill pipe. The proper number of rubbers should be used, one on each and every joint, and the rubbers should be kept larger than the tool joints. Any time a rubber is let run out of the bottom of the surface casing into the formation, it is worn out in one trip. In this case the rubber should be changed and at all times a rubber of the proper size should be kept on the kelly sub.

There should be a better understanding between the operator and the drilling contractor when trouble is encountered with surface casing. At the least provocation, a Schlumberger should be run to determine if the casing is parted. Then the loose joint should be cemented. In some instances a joint of surface casing has been known to fall a thousand feet and the hole finally lost, when it could have been avoided if it had been taken care of when it was first noticed.



There is a lot of money spent due to the lack of understanding between the men in charge of the company operations and the tool pushers in charge of the drilling contractor's tools. Neither representative is sure of his ground as to where the responsibility for the trouble lies; therefore, no one is taking the direct responsibility immediately and therefore, valuable rig time and other expensive undertakings are going forward without any planning.

When the drilling contractor makes the amount of hole specified by the operator, and runs the casing furnished by the operator in the manner specified by him, cements the casing according to the operator's specifications, anchors the blowout preventer sufficiently, drills the plug with a rock bit, runs the proper number of right size rubber protectors on his drill pipe and kelly sub, and has his rig lined up properly and in good condition, he will avoid much surface casing trouble, and certainly will reduce to the minimum any responsibility of his if a failure occurs. If a failure occurs for reasons other than the aforementioned, in all probability it is the responsibility of the operator, and his representative should immediately take charge and assume responsibility for cleaning up the hole.

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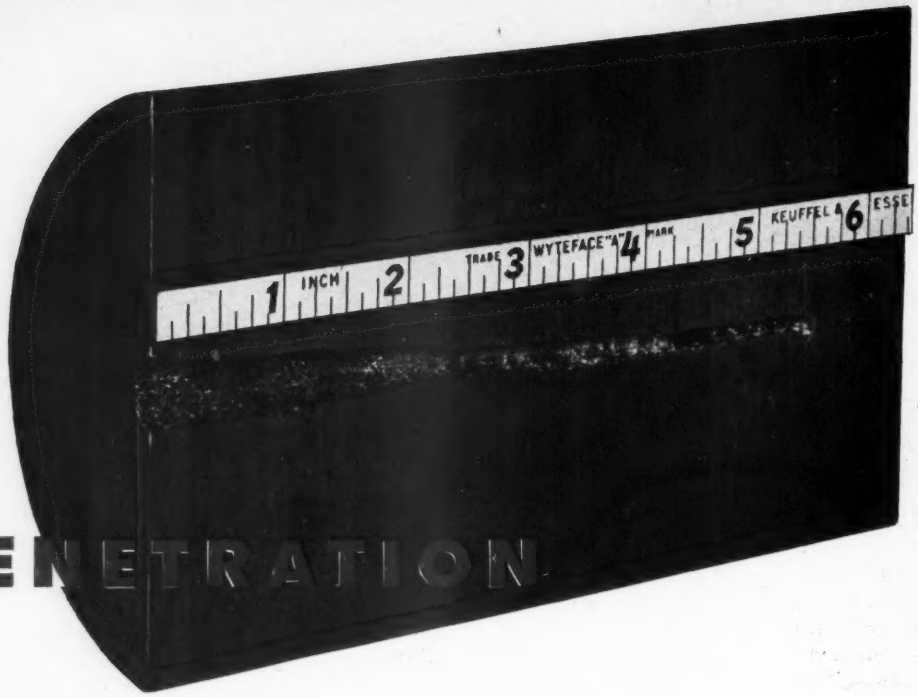
During the first three months of 1951, American business will invest $4,800,000,000 in new factories, machinery and equipment. Such a figure is a record for the first quarter of the year and the Commerce Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission indicated that capital outlays for the whole 1951 year will be the highest on record.

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# Field Development

## Los Angeles Basin

### Maywood Test Holds Interest

Union Oil Company has staked location for one of the most interesting test wells in recent years in the Los Angeles Basin. It will hunt for oil in the Bandini sector of the Maywood area, 2773 ft. west and 1770 ft. north from the southeast corner of Sec. 18-2n-12w. This is approximately 800 ft. due east of the intersection of Atlantic boulevard and the north side of the Los Angeles River. Designed to go deep, the venture is named Los Nietos-CCMO et al. Union's new well in the Whittier area, Sansinena No. 33 on Sec. 3-2n-10w, last was reported pumping at the rate of 11 barrels of 17.9 gravity oil daily from a plugged depth of 2700 ft. Total bottom is 4805 ft. Sansinena No. 34 on the section is drilling ahead and has passed the 3700-ft. mark. In the Dominguez field, the company has given the final touch to its Callender No. 121 on Sec. 32-3s-13w. Drilled to a bottom of 7930 ft., representative gauge was not yet available at this writing.

### Bartholomaus Wildcat Idle

In the Bartholomaus Canyon area in Los Angeles County, the W. W. Bush Bar No. 1 is idle at 1798 ft. on Sec. 6-2n-14w. In the Whittier Narrows area, General Petroleum's Kruse No. 1 test on Sec. 8-2s-11w is digging at 1210 ft. At Del Valle, Pacific Western continues to dig deeper at 4618 ft. with Encinas Fee No. 1 test on Sec. 20-4n-17w.

### Loma Verde Test Started

Trigood Oil Company has started work on its Ayala No. 1 wildcat well at Loma Verde on Sec. 29-5n-17w, Los Angeles County. Superior Oil's Romero No. 51-28, a test well on Sec. 28-5n-17w, is digging at 7990 ft.

### Castaic Creek Job Prospecting

Drilling is going forward satisfactorily at a depth of 2620 ft. in the Humble Oil & Refining-British-American Oil Producing N. L. & F. No. C-1 on Sec. 1-4n-17w at Castaic Creek. Humble, individually, is making hole ahead at 2930 ft. with N. L. & F. No. 4 on Sec. 19-4n-16w at Castaic. N. L. & F. No. B-1 on Sec. 12-4n-17w in the Oak Canyon area is digging at 3740 ft. On the Paradise Rancho near Castaic, F. G. Walker, Operator, Mary Austin No. 1 on Sec. 28-6n-17w is down 1920 ft. and going deeper.

### Colton Test Fishing Bit

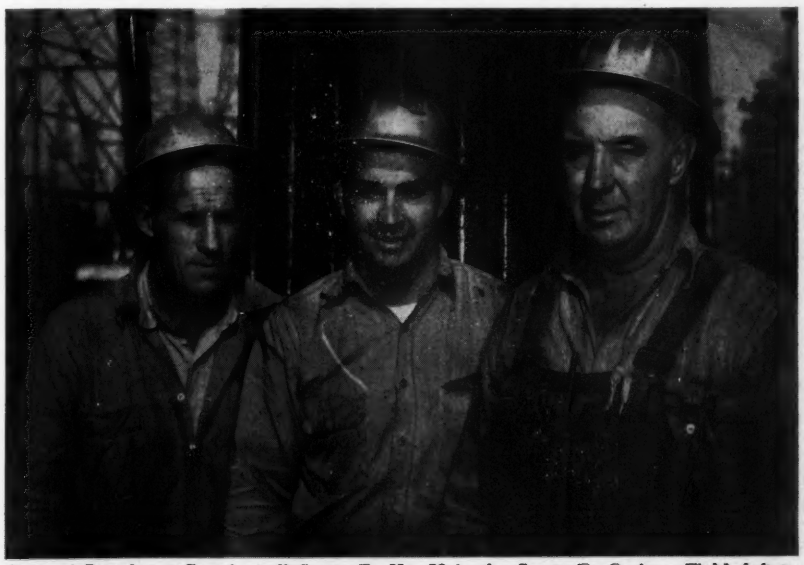
At Colton in San Bernardino County, the John W. Brashears Dana No. 1 exploratory project on Sec. 26-1s-5w has reached 2734 ft., but is fishing for bit. In the Chino Hills, L. H. Cameron's No. M-2 on Sec. 32-2s-8w evidently has flowed some oil from 1765 ft.

### Torrance Well Good

Standard Oil of California has completed its Marble Fee No. 41 on Sec. 15-4s-14w in the Torrance field pumping initially at the rate of 80 barrels a day from 4909 ft. The Hellman Estate No. 43 at Seal Beach on Sec. 12-5s-12w is drilling at 6460 ft.

### Placerita Duo Starts

General Petroleum Corporation is engaged in preliminary work on two drilling jobs in the Placerita area. They are Orwig No. 3 and No. 5 on Sec. 31-4n-15w. In the Newhall-Potrero field, Sunray Oil's NCW No.



**General Petroleum Corp.'s well Santa Fe No. 52 in the Santa Fe Springs Field, left to right: Stanley Haught, helper; Walter Cummings, helper, A. R. Hunt, head well puller.**

4-5 on Sec. 25-4n-17w is digging at 10,180 ft. RSF No. 94-5 on Sec. 35-4n-17w is digging at 5875 ft.

## Richfield Job Staked

Bishop Oil Company has staked location for Kraemer No. 1-A well on Sec. 30-3s-9w in the Richfield field, Orange County. The well will drill near the intersection of Alta Vista and Central avenues. Continental Oil's Pyne No. 2 on Sec. 33-3s-9w has been completed on the pump for a yield yet to be gauged accurately. Total bottom is 4764 ft. and plugged depth 4713 ft.

## Beach Well On Town Lot

O'Meara & Rogers Cons. Company's Town Lot No. 3 on Sec. 3-6s-11w in the Huntington Beach area has reached 3817 ft. and has 8⅝-in. casing cemented at 1906 ft. Pacific Drilling Company's Skeen No. 1 on Sec. 10-6s-11w is drilling at 2800 ft. Signal Oil & Gas Company and Southwest Exploration each have three wells drilling in the field. Standard Oil is busy with five wells.

## Long Beach Well Yields

After having redrilled to 3655 ft., Boone-Fowler & Company has completed Dowdle No. 1 on Sec. 24-4s-13w in the Long Beach area for 175 barrels daily. The project went originally to 3716 ft. Sunshine Oil Company has cellar dug for its Sunshine No. 2 on Sec. 29-4n-12w.

## Dominguez Try Drills

Prospect drilling is going forward at 7420 ft. in the D. D. and Dorothy Dunlap Del Amo-Bell No. 1 test well on Sec. 5-4s-13w in the Dominguez area.

## Calabasas Wildcat Spuds

On Sec. 23-1n-18w in the Calabasas area, F. G. Anderson has spudded and is drilling steadily on down with Mabel No. 1 wildcat. In the East Coyote field, Bartholomae Corporation has finished Stern No. 21 at 6105 ft. for an estimated 80 barrels a day. The well is on Section 22-3s-10w.

## Orange County Wildcats Work

Shell Oil Company's Irvine Ranch One No. 166-1 on Sec. 11-7s-9w in the San Joaquin Hills of Orange County continues to dig down below 5500 ft. The company's Irvine Four No. 51-130 in the Corona Del Mar area on Sec. 5-7s-9w is drilling at 1380 ft. on the first leg of a journey designed to go deep. With plug at 4505 ft., Patrick A. Doheny is still working with his Holsinger No. 1 south of the city of Anaheim on Sec. 22-4s-10w. Total bottom is 4631 ft.

## Corona Try Digs

Berghofer No. 1 wildcat, sponsored by V. O. D. Oil Company, Inc., in the Corona area of Riverside County, is drilling on down below 1500 ft. in Sec. 29-4s-6w.

## Montebello Test Drills

South of the Montebello field proper, Texas Company's Shofner No. 1 test on Sec. 6-2s-11w is making steady time with the prospect drill at 2215 ft.

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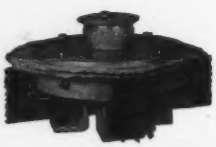

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# San Joaquin Valley

## Antelope Well In

Shell Oil Company's Hopkins B No. 62X-23 test well on Sec. 23-27s-19e in the North Antelope pool last was reported putting out 365 barrels a day from a plugged depth of 2563 ft. Total bottom is 2580 ft.

## Raisin City Well Drills

Edwin W. Pauley's Hamilton No. 23-13 well in the Raisin City field is drilling ahead at 500 ft. on Sec. 13-15s-17e. In the Ant Hill area, International Exploration's Linda No. 7 on Sec. 2-29s-29e is prospecting ahead near 1400 ft. At Buena Vista, Meeker & Garner are redrilling from 2230 ft., after carrying Munroe No. 4 to 2919 ft. The derrick is on Sec. 16-32s- 24e.

## Edison Groves Test Drilling

In the Edison Groves area, Trico Oil & Gas Company as this is set down was drilling and spot coring at 3900 ft. with Raub Comm. No. 1 on Sec. 33-29s-29e. The Standard Oil Company, Operator, No. 30R-X-55 on Sec. 30-30s-23e in the Elk Hills field is digging below 8100 ft. At Nedia Agua Creek, E. T. Willard's Wright No. 1 on Sec. 23-28s-19e is digging at 2005 ft.

## Stern Corral Test Drilling

At Stern Corral in Kern County, Shell Oil's Security No. 1 on Sec. 26-28s-19e is down 5400 ft. and drilling deeper in quest of new oil. In the Mount Poso field on Sec. 16-27s-28e, the company has reached 2000 ft. with Security No. 39.

## Cuyama Valley Lively Center

On formation test of Hancock Oil Company's Hancock-Bishop No. 33-31 on Sec. 31-32s-20e at Northwest Cuyama gas came to surface in four minutes followed by a net rise of 4470 ft. of oil. No free water was evident. The try was of 50 minute duration and took in the zone from 5610 ft. to 5766 ft. Water shut off was okay on 7-in. casing set at 5595 ft. The operator as this is written was coring at 5800 ft. to take in more zone. Location is on a 160-acre spread in which Hancock divides interest with Bishop Oil Company of San Francisco. It is about 1000 ft. northwest of the Hancock Bishop No. 44-31 discovery well. The oil finder was completed at a plugged level of 6020 ft., after drilling to a total depth of 6235 ft. In the Morales sector of Cuyama Valley, Southern California Petroleum continues to dig deeper at 1640 ft. with Shlaudeman No. 9-10 on Sec. 10-11n-28w.

## Gould Hills Test Drills

Union Oil's Los Nietos Company has reached a drilled depth of 4040 ft. with its Richardson No. 81-18 wildcat on Sec. 18-29s-21e in the Gould Hills area, Kern County. In the Bena area, Peerless Associates is making hole ahead at 1370 ft. with Gross No. 1 on Sec. 26-30s-30e. On the Belgian Anticline, Pacific Western's Rankin-TWA No. 72-31 on Sec. 31-30s-22e is making hole at 4547 ft. North of the McDonald Anticline area proper, Seaboard Oil Company has location for its Seaboard-Bandini-Theat No. 1 on Sec. 2-28s-19e. Bandini also has an interest in the play. Coring is moving ahead at 5060 ft. in the Gene Reid Drilling Company Woodworth No. 26-30 on Sec. 30-31s-30e at Arvin. About to give the final touch is Standard Oil to its Mushrush No. 2 on Sec. 7-27s-24e in the Wasco area along the Santa Fe right-of-way. The well is bottomed at 15,550 ft.

## Mountain View Test A Location

Havenstrite Oil Company's Tyner No. 1 on Sec. 2-30s-28e is a location in the north Mountain View area. The company recently sold its natural gasoline plant at Castaic and its producing properties in the Del Valle field to Union Oil Company and Nassau Associates, Inc., a subsidiary of Dillon-Read & Company. Havenstrite received $12,000,000 in the deal. Union acquired the assets of the gasoline plant for approximately $3,000,000. Nassau purchased Havenstrite's Del Valle property for around $9,000,000. The property included 25 oil wells producing about 2000 barrels of high gravity oil and 320 acres of ground. Union has entered into a crude oil purchase contract with Nassau to buy the oil from the newly acquired land. The transaction did not take in any other Havenstrite producing properties elsewhere. Nassau's purchase amounted to about $4500 a barrel of daily production. This is viewed as possibly the highest price ever paid for California output on a basis of a barrel per day.

**In the Santa Fe Springs Field at Pacific Western Oil Corp.'s well No. 33, left to right: R. R. Fielder, head well puller; R. L. Blurton, helper; Ray Kite, helper; Pete Holland, helper.**

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## Salt Creek Test Starts

Carneros Oil Company has started work on its Anderson Comm. No. 5 on Sec. 19-29s-21e at Salt Creek in Kern County. The Capital Company's No. 43-21 on Sec. 21-32s-29e in the Comanche Point area is nearing the spudding stage. At Lost Hills, General Petroleum has written off its Williamson No. 3-11 test at 1634 ft. on Sec. 11-26s-20e. Independent Exploration's interesting wildcat effort in the Santos Creek area, Santos No. 1 on Sec. 32-28s-20e, is drilling at 2410 ft. The Buttonbed was topped at 1708 ft. and the Carneros at 2173 ft.

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## Tejon Hills Adds Pumper

After bailing oil, pump is being installed on the Cliff E. Zillgitt HW No. 1 on Sec. 10-11n-18w in the Tejon Hills. The well was carried to 450 ft., before plugged back for the final touch at 438 ft. Interval perforated is 392-422 ft. Location is on a 10-acre lease. Ken Wood and Jim Hannah of Bakersfield share with Zillgitt in the development program. Five miles west of the Tejon Hills field, Sunray Oil Corporation's Tejon Ranch No. 14-21 on Sec. 14-11n-19w is drilling at 3140 ft.

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## Cholame Try Digs

C. W. Colgrove's Jack No. 83-17 on Sec. 17-25s-16e in the Cholame area of San Luis Obispo County continues its downward path at 1010 ft. Location is about a mile and one-half northeast of a duster drilled by Colgrove to near 1900 ft. At Bitterwater Creek, Ohio Oil's Fred Porter No. 1 exploratory project is slugging away at 2415 ft. Standard of California's Cleary-Hillman No. 44-8 on wildcat ground in the Estrella area is still a location on Sec. 8-25s-14e.

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## Reef Ridge Test Drills

At Reef Ridge in Kings County, Sunray Oil Corporation's Lynch-Mauren No. 1 wildcat well on Sec. 9-23s-17e is drilling at 9650 ft. Artnell Company at Kettleman Hills North Dome is digging below 8200 ft. with its Whepley No. 1-5 test on Sec. 35-21s-17e.

## Fresno County Wildcat Spudded

Signal Petroleum of California has spudded its Janss No. 1 wildcat well on Sec. 31-13s-17e on the trend between the Raisin City oil field and the Gill Ranch gas field, Fresno County. Location is on a block of leases totaling some 2000 acres. Others in the play are British-American Oil Producing, Kern Oil and Dunlap & Graham. The latter is drilling the well on contract. The venture is aligned to try all possible zones, including the Lower Miocene and Eocene. Kemnitzer, Richards and Diepenbrock are company engineers and geologists. L. M. Lockhart's Ragland No. 1-31 test on Sec. 31-14s-13e on the Cheney Ranch near Panoche Creek continues to poke deeper at 6901 ft. Mid-Cal Oil & Gas Company's Mid-Cal-Suglian No. 1 southeast of the city of Fresno on Sec. 23-13s-20e is idle at 285 ft. It is a cable tool job. In the Coalinga area, Max Pray and Elisha Walker, Jr., are drilling at 6970 ft. with Nidever No. 2 on Sec. 24-20s-15e. The Guijarral Service Company PVF-P No. 50 on Sec. 12-30s-14e is plugged at 670 ft. It went to a total bottom of 906 ft.

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## East Lonack Test Working

Drilling and coring at last reports had reached 6300 ft. in Texas Company's Eade NCT-One No. 1 wildcat on Sec. 12-19s-10e at East Lonoak, San Benito County. Electric log, dipmeter and sidewall sampler were run at 6034 ft. Jack Herley of Long Beach has location for O'Connell No. 3 on Sec. 4-12s-4e in the Sargent area.

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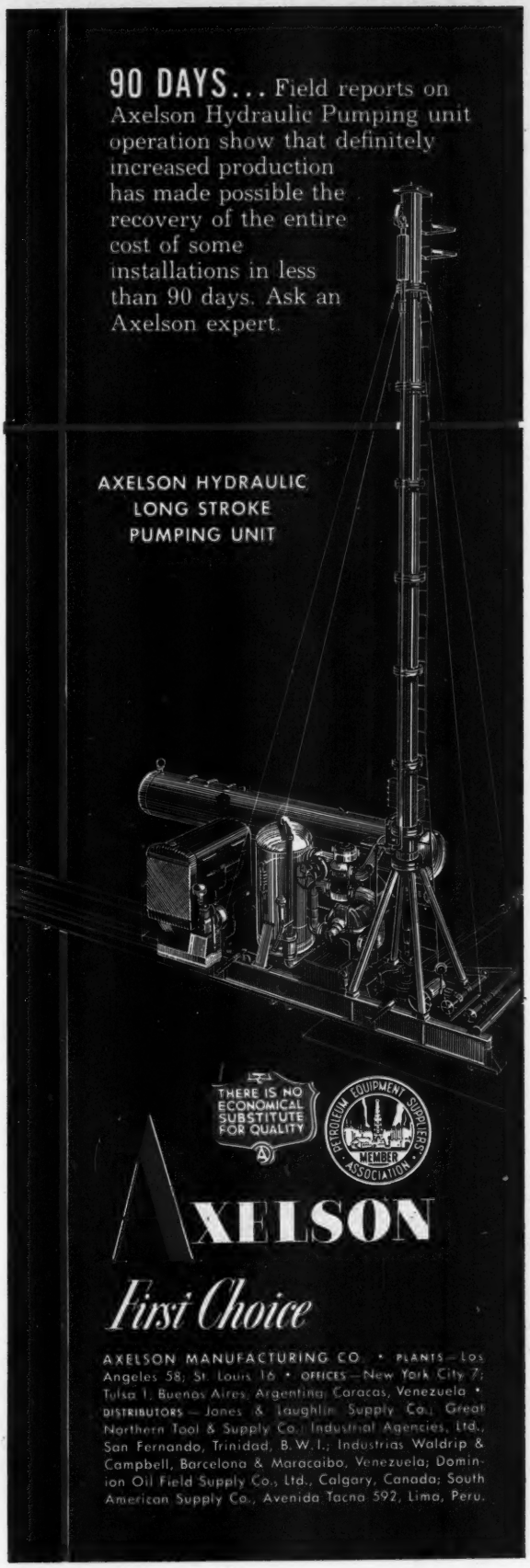
## Signal Royalties Now Liquidating

Signal Royalties Company of Los Angeles is in the process of liquidation. It is understood that bids will be opened on March 20 for the purchase of all its California mineral and fee interests. Copies of an appraisal made October 10, 1949, of the producing properties are available at the company's offices in Los Angeles. Although as yet there has been no appraisal made of the concern's non-producing mineral interests in California, information on them also is available.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# Coastal and Northern District

## Bardsdale Well Starts

Shell Oil Company has started work on its Dryden No. 2, a test well on Sec. 7-3n-19w in the Bardsdale area of Ventura County. Location is about 1500 ft. southeast of Bysshe & Barratt's Elkins Lease. The latter is preparing to select drill site for No. 8 well at the south end of the Elkins property. Shell recently announced that present plans of the company include an increased oil well development program involving the completion of some 200 wells in the next five years. A major share of this new development will consist of drilling and producing from horizons passed up in former exploration or from depths not as yet attempted. Producing fields like Ventura and Brea are on the calendar for intensive development during 1951, according to S. F. Bowlby, Shell's regional manager in charge of exploration and production on the Pacific Coast. The new drilling campaign will utilize production techniques unknown when many of the fields were first discovered and developed. The company at last reports was drilling 21 wells which normally could be expected to add some 3000 barrels daily to the California supply of crude oil. Most of this activity centers in the Ventura Avenue field where a dozen strings of drilling tools are operating. Bowlby said that company drilling was speeded up primarily as a defense measure; also to meet the boost in consumer demand for oil products due to the rapidly growing population in the West.

## Colusa County Wildcat Idle

L. O. Tarrant's Neita Peterson No. 1 explorer is idle at 3360 ft. on Sec. 6-17n-4w on the Sites Anticline, Colusa County. The operator is understood preparing to move in heavier equipment for a shot at possible production in the deeper formations.

## Reyes Test Runs Casing

In the rugged Reyes Peak area, Standard has set 13⅜-in. pipe at 3000 ft. in Hattie Russell No. 1 wildcat well on Sec. 11-6n-23w, Ventura County. Lloyd Corporation is continuing tests in its Sexton No. 2 on Sec. 19-3n-22w in the Ventura Avenue area. The well is bottomed at 12,611 ft. and has casing sete at 12,298 ft.

## Piru Well Digs Ahead

F. E. Fairfield, one of the best known members of the California oil fraternity, has reached 3525 ft. with Holser No. 5 on Sec. 14-4n-18w at Piru. Fairfield has location for Serv e No. 2 on Sec. 20-3n-20w in the South Mountain area. Ojai Oil's No. 9-A on Sec. 12-4n-22w in the Ojai field is digging at 1250 ft. This was the status of these wells when this was written.

## Sespe Job Drilling

H. A. Ivers' well No. 15 at Sespe, Sec. 1-4n-20w, Ventura County, is drilling at 304 ft. Santa Paula Drlg. & Dev. Company is poking ahead at 460 ft. with Paula No. 4 on Sec. 22-4n-21w at Santa Paula. At Shiells Canyon, Fullerton Oil Company was at last reports coring at 2850 ft. with Shiells Canyon No. W-1 on Sec. 3-3n-19w.

## Cat Canyon Jobs Start

General Petroleum is nearing the spudding stage with its Idoil No. 14-22 on Sec. 22-9n-33w at Cat Canyon, Santa Barbara County. Sunray Oil also is about to begin drilling its Dominion No. 46-23-5 on the section. Union Oil's No. 99 on Sec. 35-9n-33w is rigged. The company's Geis-Robertson No. 25 at Bardsdale on Sec. 12-3n-20w is down 6409 ft., but fishing.

## San Ardo Try Starts

Jergins Oil Company has started Aurignac No. 1, a test well in the San Ardo area on Sec. 9-23s-10e, Monterey County. This company came into the news recently when Lehman Brothers announced in New York purchase by the Edison Oil Company and Wilmington Associates, Inc., of control of Jergins Oil by the acquisition of the entire holdings of the Jergins family and certain other stockholders at a price of $421.50 a share. The transaction involved a total of some $30,000,000. It is one of the largest deals of its kind consummated in the petroleum industry during the past year and marked a change in ownership in one of the largest independent companies on the Pacific Coast.

**California Production Service Crew at Union Oil Co.'s well Bell No. 38 in the Santa Fe Springs Field: left to right: B. D. West, head well puller; W. J. Porter, helper; N. Stevens, helper; R. E. Keetle, helper.**

## Manka Try Drills On

On the Manka Anticline, Sunray Oil's Manka Comm. One No. 1 on Sec. 4-5s-2w is digging at 5190 ft. The project is in Solano County. Northwest of Petaluma in Sonoma County, Santa Rosa Exploration Company continues to slug away at 3180 ft. with Stephens-Rohnert No. 1 wildcat on Sec. 22-6n-8w. Standard of California has spudded its interesting wildcat in the Orland area of Tehama County. The well, known as Orland Comm. Two No. 1, is on Sec. 32-23n-2w. Buttes Oilfields, Inc., is making hole at 1109 ft. with Saldubere-Buttes well on Sec. 25-24n-1w.

## Tinaquaic Test Drills

Tide Water Associated Oil's Tinaquaic No. 1 wildcat well in the Fox Canyon area of Santa Barbara County is drilling at 3175 ft. On formation test of the interval of 2215-2491 ft., drilling mud and globules of tar were recovered. On a trial between 2491 and 2701 ft., drilling mud and sulphur water were recovered. Santa Goleta Petroleum Company has completed Santa Claus No. 1 on Sec. 10-4n-29w in the Goleta area for an initial output of 20 barrels of water on the pump along with a trace of oil. The project was carried to 1766 ft., before plugging back to 727 ft.

## Lompoc Try Digs

On the La Purisima Rancho southwest of Lompoc in Santa Barbara County, Hugh B. Martin's Beuterbaugh No. 3 on Sec. 18-7n-34w is digging at 1150 ft. Laguna Oil Company is grading ground for its Laguna No. 1 test on Sec. 15-7n-30w in the Los Olivos area.

## Red Mountain Wildcat Drills

In the Red Mountain area of Ventura County, Amerada Petroleum's R. C. No. 1 on Sec. 10-3n-24w is prospecting ahead at 2356 ft. Bestco Petroleum Corporation has staked location for its Frey No. 1 on Sec. 2-3n-19w at Shiells Canyon. LeRoy C. Gould's Palo Comado No. 1 on Sec. 14-1n-18w is idle around 1900 ft. Jergins Oil's Hillside No. 1 in the Sisar-Silverthread area is still fishing with present depth of the well 6464 ft.


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## Wheeler Ridge Wildcat Staked

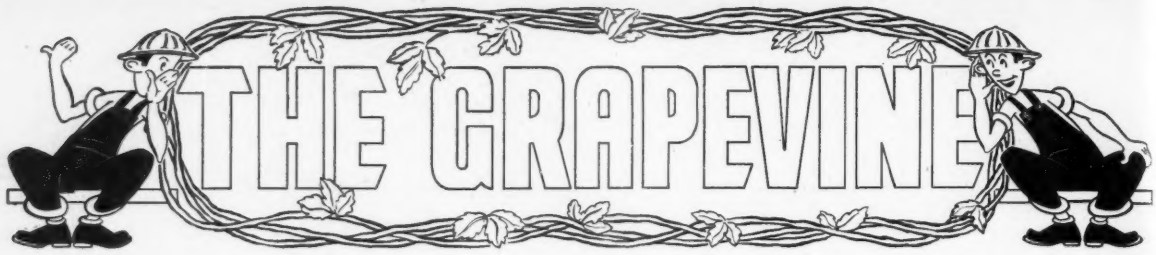
About a mile and one-half southeast of production owned by Standard Oil Company at Wheeler Ridge, Hancock Oil has staked location for KCL No. 61-35. The test will drill on Sec. 35-11n-20w.

## Steele Canyon Wildcat Works

Western Gulf Oil's F. G. Johnson No. 1 on a large spread of acreage in the Steele Canyon area of Napa County is drilling ahead at a shallow depth. The derrick stands on Sec. 28-8n-3w.

## General Pete Fights Sabotage

The General Petroleum Corporation announces it will pay up to $100,000 in rewards for evidence leading to conviction of anyone responsible for crimes of violence in connection with sabotage. Geepee will pay $25,000 to anyone who voluntarily produces evidence which leads to a conviction for a deliberate act of sabotage against the company when the act results in death or permanent disability to a General Petroleum employee or a member of an employee's family. A $10,000 reward will be paid under similar circumstances in connection with an act of sabotage leading to injury of an employee or member of his family, also, a reward of $2,000 will be paid for evidence leading to conviction of anyone responsible for an act of sabotage which results in damage of $1,000 or more to company property. General Petroleum, moreover, is making provisions for paying any employee up to $5,000 over the amount recoverable from his insurance for property damage arising from an act of sabotage in which the company is involved, providing the damage occurs without fault on the employee's part. Wherever legal, rewards are also in order for police and other governmental officers in connection with General Petroleum sabotage. The affiliated Socony-Vacuum Oil Company in the east and affiliated Magnolia Petroleum Company in the southwest have inaugurated like programs.




At the year end meeting of the Petroleum Pen Pushers in the Biltmore Hotel, hosted by Bob Roberts for Standard of California, we had the pleasure of sitting next to George O'Brien, the very friendly and in all respects pleasant vice president of Standard. Across the table from us was George Tyler, the du Pont executive, another lad we have come to admire over the years. In the course of a casual discussion about the oil man's flair for joining organizations, George O'Brien asked George Tyler if he happened to be a member of the S. P. C. S. P. G., which, he hastened to explain, was the Society for the Prevention of Calling Sleeping-car Porters "George". This, as might be imagined, whetted our curiosity no end, and after some fancy heckling we developed the following interesting facts:

The S. P. C. S. P. G. has no function other than that which its name suggests. It now has some 640,000 members in the United States and its emblem consists of crossed swords, one pointing at a waiter and the other pointing at a porter. Just how old the organization is we forgot to inquire, but George O'Brien has been a member for 18 years and the list of officers shown on his membership card indicates that it certainly wasn't born yesterday. They are as follows: President, Senator George H. Moses; vice president, Senator George of Georgia; Poet Laureate, George Ade; Lyricist, George M. Cohan; Chaplain, Cardinal Mundelein Secretary, George P. Rea; English representative, King George V; French charge d'affaires, Georges Clemenceau; Secretary of the Treasury, George B. Courtelyou; Sergeant-at-arms, George "Babe" Ruth. Patron saints, George Washington and Admiral George Dewey.

The organization has no fees and no annual dues, and any member may elect a new member by merely issuing to him a membership card and then having him swear before heaven and these witnesses that he will take every means in his power to stop this dastardly business of calling sleeping car porters George. Now that George Tyler has been enlisted in the cause there should soon be a marked drop in the reprehensible practice.

---

Not long ago we spent an enjoyable lunch hour with Harry Hillman, the genial prexy of California Production Service, his capable aide, Charlie Eastman, and an imposing group of the west's leading petroleum production and safety men. The occasion was the first showing of a motion picture just completed by Hal Stegman for California Production Service and the California Petroleum Safety Board, and entitled "Safety In Well Pulling." The narrator or commentator was A. J. "Marty" Martinson of California Petroleum Safety Board, to whose deliberate but emphatic lingo we have been listening for many years in diverse connections.

Marty did a good job of enunciating the important consideration and, indeed, the picture was generally excellent from the total viewpoint of constructive presentation. As some of the experts pointed out, there may be slight differences between CPS well pulling techniques and those of other operators, but that in itself is a provocative circumstance that will excite a reexamination and a comparative evaluation that should be good all the way around. The picture emphasizes the precautionary measures that must be taken to avoid accident in all departures of a well pulling project, from the preliminary inspection of transportation units through advice on highway safety while getting to the location; setting the pulling rig in place, and conducting the actual pulling job.

It is one of those positive hence convincing pieces of safety promotion that simply shows a complete operation carried on by competent people while a narrator comments on the wherefores and whys of each significant safety measure. There is nothing glamorous about it. The characters are a real working crew going about their daily stint, but we believe it is the kind of picture that will do a good safety job. No doubt flaws will be found and improvements in method will result but that is again to the credit of the film. We rather imagine that there will be considerable demand for it and we feel sure that a showing before any group of production men will excite plenty of discussion. That, after all, is the real secret of safety success. It is the apathy of routine security that makes for trouble and there is no man so surely riding for a fall as the chap who has become familiar with his job to the point of carelessness.

Among those who saw the first showing of Safety In Well Pulling and voiced constructive comment were Barton Cater and Jim Hopkins of Standard Oil Co.; Ed Joujan-Roche, Shell Oil Co.; Ray Metcalf, Signal Oil & Gas Co.; Jim Harrington, General Petroleum Corporation; Bud Fisher, Industrial Accident Commission; A. J. Martinson, California Petroleum Safety Board; K. C. Vaughn, Union Oil Company; Hal Stegman, photographer; Art Heiser, Brown Drilling Company; and Myrl Curtis and John Woodruff of University of Texas. The general reaction to the showing was good and some fine ideas were developed on the best manner of presentation to realize the greatest good. A system of repetitive showings with supplementary discussions and examinations was recommended by John Woodruff, and others commented favorably on the various aspects of the picture itself. It was all very much worthwhile and we enjoyed it.

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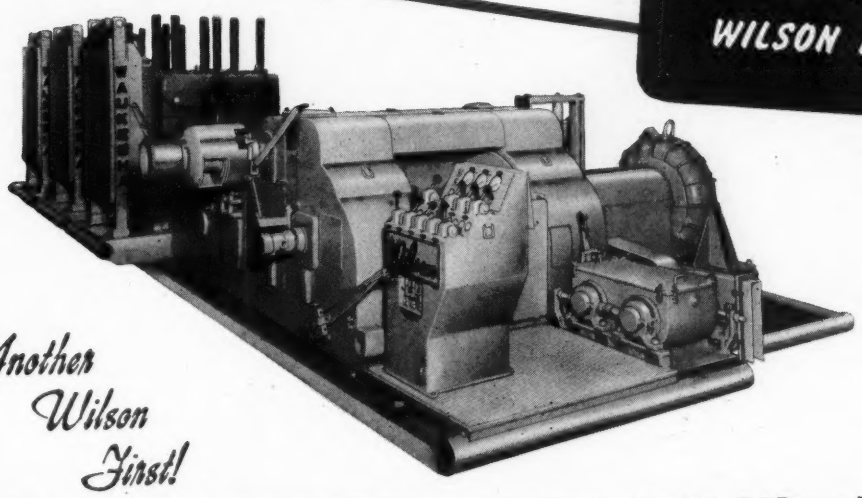
The prospect of Jerry Engstrand's succession to the presidency of the local chapter of Nomads, about to be vacated by Earle Boggess after a fine



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# Mid-West Improvements to Include Platforming Unit

**By L. A. Woodward, President**
**Mid-West Refineries, Inc.**

The improvement of our product and the expansion of our operation generally to meet market demands, are the reasons behind Mid-West's recent decision to install a Platforming unit and to boost our crude capacity to 10,000 b/d.

**L. A. Woodward**

The history of Mid-West dates back to the discovery of oil in the Porter field, 14 miles northeast of Alma, Michigan. The company was formed in 1933 and in 1934 a topping unit to handle 1,500 b/d of crude was completed. Initial marketing included straight run gasoline, kerosene, distillate and fuel oil, all of which found a ready and profitable demand. The success of this first unit led to the installation of a second and larger (2,500 b/d) unit which was placed on stream the following year.

## Pipelines

Pipelines were constructed from the Porter field, and shortly after, from the newer Crystal field near Alma to the southwest. The discovery of these and other fields led to the construction by other interests of a crude oil pipeline from central Michigan to Toledo, Ohio, since it appeared that the State of Michigan would become an exporter of crude oil. Subsequent years have not justified the earlier beliefs and Michigan has become increasingly dependent upon other areas for an adequate supply of crude oil. As a solution to this all-important problem of crude oil supply, Mid-West Refineries, Inc. has organized a new subsidiary, Michigan-Ohio Pipeline Corporation, which has in turn purchased this crude oil pipeline from a subsidiary of The Standard Oil Company with the intention of moving crude oil into, rather than out of, Michigan.

Michigan-Ohio Pipeline Corporation began operating the pipeline on September 1, 1950 and studies are now under way to determine the best means of coordinating the pipeline with the Alma refinery.

## Install Dubbs Unit in 1939

By 1938, competition from other refiners who had begun operation in the same area, proved the necessity for a considerable expansion program and for the conversion of a greater portion of each barrel of crude into products of higher market value. The completion of a Dubbs Thermal Cracker and Reformer in 1939

(Advertisement)

provided for more efficient utilization of the crude we had been processing in our topping plants. At the same time we made other additions including a unit for the polymerization of non-condensed gases from the cracking unit. Thus, we gained important advantages over our competition.

We were able to convert into gasoline, a portion of the 40% heavy residuum from the topping operation, bringing the ultimate recovery of gasoline from each barrel of crude to upwards of 55% as compared with 26% possible with topping alone.

The quality of the gasoline, too, was vastly improved equaling in all respects the performance of any other motor fuel then on the market.

### Acquire Second Refinery

Shortly before the war, the company acquired a second refinery located just east of Grand Rapids which had been constructed to take advantage of the crude supply made possible by the discovery of the Walker-Wyoming field. The equipment, including a gathering system and pipeline, was similar to that being operated at the original refinery at Alma.

During the war, the dwindling Michigan supply of crude was augmented by a supply from various Texas sources. With the end of the war, and the relaxing of government supervision of the industry, these sources were no longer open to us and we were faced with the problem of concentrating our crude supply at a single refinery. The Alma plant was selected for this purpose because of its connection with the major pipeline system in Michigan which was mentioned earlier.

At this time the company entered upon a program to broaden its markets, to increase its products and to reduce its dependence upon Michigan crude. A subsidiary company (Mid-West Petroleum Company) was formed for the purpose of owning crude producing properties and purchasing crudes from other sources for exchange purposes and for use at Alma. The refinery near Grand Rapids was sold, but the tankage, loading facilities, pipelines and buildings were retained for use as a terminal which has proved a valuable adjunct to the marketing operation, particularly in home and industrial fuel oils.

### The Platforming Unit

Upon completion of our UOP Platforming unit, scheduled for early in 1951, we expect to enjoy an enviable position in our marketing area. Running Michigan and outstate crude oils, we will manufacture a Platformate having a leaded research octane number of approximately 96. Blending this effluent of the Platforming unit with our other products will enable us to deliver to our outlets, a premium grade motor fuel of really superior quality. This should give Mid-West an advantage market-wise for some time to come.

(Advertisement)

year of service, recalls some interesting facts about Jerry that may not be very well known. He is, of course, vice president of Grant Oil Tool Co. and has made for himself and his employers a great many friends not only in the domestic fields but also in foreign parts, particularly South America. Jerry was born in Illinois, briefly attended grammar school in Sweden, near Gottenburg, but eventually somehow found his way back to the United States. He studied medicine at University of Colorado, managed a Childs restaurant in Denver, and played varsity football, all at the same time. He spent a year in Honolulu about 1930, playing professional football there, and then returned to California and entered U. S. C. For the next five years he stayed at the SAE house right on the campus while he studied engineering at night. Meantime he had acquired some stock in an outfit known as The Olympic Corporation, in which among the stockholders were William Randolph Hearst, H. F. Alexander, Logan & Bryan, Stanley Dollar, Marion Davies, and other notables.

After the Olympic Corp. drilled four dry holes, Jerry thought discretion the better part of valor and went into the mud business, eventually, in fact, being the sole proprietor of plants at Bakersfield, Rosamond, and Los Angeles, all of which are now owned by Macco. Just prior to this time he had joined forces with John Grant and when Henry Salvatori took over the Grant Oil Tool Company in 1946, he remained as vice president. Jerry has traveled extensively throughout Europe and has been in and out of South and Central America more times than he can remember. He should make an excellent president for the local Nomads since he has long been active in hosting visitors from foreign countries and is well known and highly respected by oil men both at home and abroad.

During the Olympics of 1948 in London, he was sent by the Olympics Committee as a special envoy to the Latin American countries to invite their participation in the games. Jerry has always had a strong interest in sports, particularly football, badminton, squash, track, and horse racing, and he seems to keep in touch with many of the better known coaches, trainers, and individual performers. At least he seems to come up with one

**PROCUREMENT MAN NUMBER ONE**

**It is a long time since we first ran into J. J. "Joe" Siegel, the smooth Kobe Incorporated executive, out at Union Oil Company's production department at Santa Fe Springs, and we have learned to know him pretty well in the meantime. There are few operating men, indeed, who haven't come to know Joe well during the past 35 years. He was born in Ithaca, New York, but couldn't stand the congestion and at an early age took off for California. Here, about 1915, he began work with the Western Oxygen & Gas Products Company of Los Angeles, which two years later was sold to California Compressed Gas Company, and Joe along with it.**

**It was then that he meet Clarence J. "Kobe" Coberly and formed an alliance that has been both profitable and pleasant for both of them down through the years. C. J., in the process of designing welding and cutting torches, conceived the idea of using an electrically controlled oxy-acetylene flame to slot pipe, and in 1924, Kobe, Incorporated, was organized to develop the idea to a commercial reality. Joe was one of the original stockholders and has in a substantial way in the meantime contributed to the continued progress of the institution. It was purchased by Dresser Industries in 1949 without change of name or personnel, and Joe Siegel is still holding forth at the old stand.**

**Joe's big interest apart from his work is the Petroleum Production Pioneers, of which he has been membership chairman for a number of years. He has been instrumental in a considerable way for the fact that this is one of the fastest growing oil associations in the west. It now boasts over 1400 members and the roster is still increasing rapidly. Joe spends more time on the phone than a bobby soxer before a high school prom, but he does it with a purpose. He knows every maitre-de and hotel manager between San Diego and Vancouver, B. C., and is without doubt the Number 1 procurement man of the industry. If you need a ticket for a football game, the opening of grand opera season, or the first showing of South Pacific, and have exhausted all your other sources, give Joe a call and if you can just solicit his sympathy your troubles are over.**

any time he is required to find a speaker for a Nomad meeting. He is vice president of the Jonathan Club and a member of the board of directors. He is also on the rosters of the Petroleum Club and the Petroleum Production Pioneers. One of his most outstanding characteristics however, is a faculty for getting audience with people who are normally difficult of approach. He is solicitous, friendly, and always eager to be helpful, which taken together would seem to be pretty tangible assurance of another good year for Los Angeles Nomads in 1951.

We were happy to receive a card during the holidays from Al Gregersen, the affable chief of the Danish American Exploration Company over in Copenhagen. This is an affiliate of the Gulf Oil Corporation that has been primarily interested in a border property lying between Holland and Denmark. Al tells us that after being somewhat slowed down for a time, the original concession has been renegotiated and everybody is now raring to go. He is getting pretty fully accustomed to the ways of the home folks and he and his family are enjoying their adventure immensely. Of course, we imagine they still have an occasional hankering for a short peek at California but we won't go into that.

Titles, we understand, are one thing that cause the tenderfoot no end of trouble over there. You have to know just how the various tradesmen are designated, for example, before you can look one up in the phone book, because that is how they are classified —and their titles are distinctly different from ours for the same type of occupation. What we know as a janitor, the Dane refers to as a "heating master", and our plumber would over there be called a "water and gas master."

It is more amusing than annoying except in the case of emergency and Al's many friends in California will be pleased to know that he and the family are having no difficulty in adjusting themselves, on the contrary are finding life very agreeable in Copenhagen. For those who are not acquainted with him, we might mention that Al is an ex-president of the Pacific Coast section of AAPG, a former executive of District Five Petroleum Administration for War, and a well known oil man here on the west coast.

# Rocky Mountain NEWS

**Colorado—Idaho—Montana—New Mexico—Utah—Wyoming—Western Canada**

Oil production in the Rocky mountain region reached an all-time peak of 275,000 barrels of oil per day in 1950. In the last quarter of the year, output jumped 25,000 bbls. daily, reflecting the demands for fueling the Korean war.

For the first time in its history as an oil region, the Rocky mountain empire had access to expanding markets. Pipelines were bringing an end to the traditional isolation of this producing region.

The Pacific Northwest opened as a new market for the crude from Colorado's big Rangely field and the new Utah pools, as a result of the Salt Lake Pipe Line Co. products line from Salt Lake to near Spokane. Rocky mountain crude came into direct competition with the California product.

Production of the six-state region is expected to maintain the 275,000 bbl. figure through most of 1951, or until the new Platte Pipe Line from Worland to Casper to Wood River is completed, probably late in the year. This will furnish an economical outlet for an additional 75,000 bbls. of Wyoming crude oil daily.

Meanwhile, assurance of the new major pipeline has already stimulated drilling activities and leasing in Wyoming and the Julesburg Basin of western Nebraska and northeastern Colorado. Encouraged by ideal winter weather, drilling activities continued in full swing past the first of the new year.

Wyoming production in 1950 climbed to a new record of 60 million barrels, and even the state's low black asphaltic crudes were finding unprecedented demand at the close of the year. Such fields as Steamboat Butte, with 10,000 bbls. capacity; Oregon Basin with 10,500, and Hamilton Dome, with 12,000 bbls., were producing at the maximum rate. Wyoming's biggest field, Elk Basin, was beating 14,000 bbls. daily. Venerable Salt Creek, once the world's biggest light oil field, still poured out 12,000 bbls. daily.

The new Worland field, a miracle of petro-chemistry, had piled up a beautiful rectangle of yellow sulfur containing over 10,000 long tons in the year just past. The rays of the morning sun lighted up the huge pile like some mammoth gold brick, and it was hard to realize that this mass had been created out of the deadly hydrogen sulfide gas once flared at the wells in Worland field. Texas Gulf Sulphur Co. had performed the miracle, turning out 300 long tons daily of the sulfur now in such great demand by defense industry. The sweetened natural gas, cleansed of sulfur compounds, flowed unceasingly thru a new pipeline from Worland to southern Montana, connecting with the Montana-Dakota Utilities system and serving over 200 communities in Montana, northern Wyoming and the Dakotas. All this from the evil-smelling gas at Worland!

Still, there is a superabundance of sulfur gas. Pure Oil Co., unit operator of the Worland field, has explained that the sulfur extracting facilities limit production of oil. Until the sulfur plant is expanded, crude oil production must be held down to around 3,500 bbls. daily. The field could exceed 10,000 bbls. daily, but only by flaring the excess gas at the well. And that is prohibited by Wyoming law.

Crude oil production jumped sharply in Colorado in the final quarter of the year, with Rangely field contributing more than 62,000 bbls. daily to the state total of 75,000 bbls. per day.

Montana has maintained its daily average of 23,000 bbls. daily, with new production in the central part of the state offsetting decreases in the older fields at Cut Bank and Kevin-Sunburst.

New fields in the Julesburg Basin of southwest Nebraska and northeast Colorado are turning out around 6,500 bbls. daily, with Nebraska contributing around 3,700 bbls. Most of this production was achieved in 1950, witih continued development of the fields around Sidney, Neb.

A score of operators produce four-fifths of the crude oil in the Rocky mountain states. Credited with more than 20,000 bbls. daily are such operators as the California Co., Continental, Ohio, Sinclair, Stanolind and Texas. California's holdings are concentrated in Rangely field. Other operators have the bulk of their production in Wyoming. Among principal producers are Atlantic Refining (a comparative newcomer), Carter, General Petroleum, Phillips, Pure, Union, Amerada, British-American, Pacific Western, Seaboard, Superior and Trigood.

Chief pipeline outlet for many years has been Service Pipe Line, formerly Stanolind Pipe Line, whose lines have been looped since the war and with the addition of new booster plants now moves more than 60,000 bbls. of crude daily from Big Horn Basin, Wind River Basin and other fields to markets in the middlewest. Tank car movements have also continued on a large scale.

Wildcatting continues on a high level of activity throughout the region, and the surface has hardly been "scratched," in the opinion of many geologists. They point out that only one wildcat has been drilled for each 78 square miles of sedimentary area, on the average. Utah, for instance, has had less than 300 wildcats drilled. Many of these were less than 1,000 ft. in depth.

Development drilling is also expected to increase in 1951 to provide ample reserves for the new pipelines. Ohio Oil Co. is reported to be plan-

ning 50 pool wells in Big Horn Basin fields in the year ahead, in addition to its large development program in the Julesburg Basin.

Example of what the future holds in store for enterprising wildcatters is the Sussex area of Johnson county, Wyo., about 18 miles north of Salt Creek. Here the biggest development program in the Rocky mountains took place in 1950. Discovered only in 1948, the Sussex fields are producing around 10,000 bbls. daily, with many wells restricted by insufficient pipeline outlets. At year's end, 15 rigs were running in the area, with four working on extensions or wildcat stepouts.

The story is told that the discovery well, by Continental, was almost abandoned. It was waiting on orders when the driller decided to drill a few feet deeper and condition his mud. The bit sunk into soft porous Lakota sand saturated with 40 gravity, light green crude, and the Sussex boom was on. Since then, a total of 115 wells was drilled in Sussex, North Meadow Creek and Meadow Creek fields and of these, only 13 were dry holes.

Delhi Oil Corp., American Liberty Oil Co., Murchison Trust and the Mimi Corp. have drilled 41 wells in the North Meadow Creek field, with only two failures.

Continental Oil Co., operator of the Sussex and Meadow Creek units, drilled 74 wells in the three fields with 11 of them dry holes. With four possible oil producing horizons to check on for every well drilled, the chances of dusters are minimized. Production has been developed in the Sussex sand, Shannon, Frontier and Lakota sands.

Production from the fields is conveyed by an eight-inch line built in 1949 from the Sussex field south to connect with the Salt Creek field, where it joins the stream of crude moving southward to Casper and the Service Pipe Line route eastward.

As Rocky mountain operators entered the new year with large budgets for exploration, leasing and drilling, these were the outstanding developments in the various states:

## WYOMING

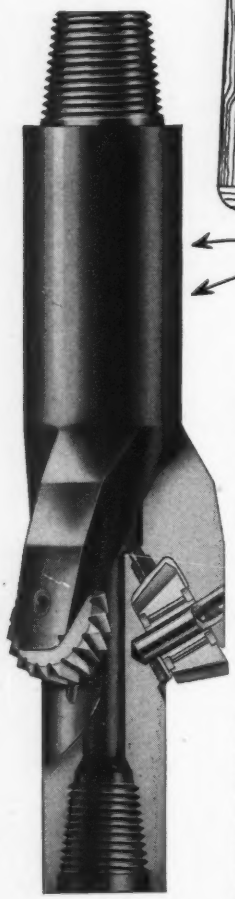
Ralph Lowe, Texas independent and his associates, Ralph Goodall of Nebraska and Clark Seargeant, California oil trucker, made a dual completion in the new South Glenrock field. The well, No. 2 Barber, flowed 315 bbls. daily thru perforations from the Muddy sand and 325 bbls. daily thru tubing from the deeper Dakota, at a total depth of 5983 ft.

Continental Oil Co. bought the Castle Creek field in Natrona county from the Ozark Corp., a group of independent lease brokers, who in turn recently acquired the small field from Oil, Inc., of Salt Lake City. Conoco plans an Embar-Tensleep test in the field southwest of Salt Creek, which has four 20 bbl. wells producing from Frontier at present.

Continental began buying up shares of MacKinnie Oil and Drilling Co., a prosperous independent with a substantial share of Elk Basin production. MacKinnie is headed by James Donoghue of Denver. The transaction is reported to be in the neighborhood of $13,000,000.

A. B. Cobb gave up his deep Powder River Basin test at Dull Center in Converse county at 10,023 ft., in the Red Beds. The venture, on a farmout from Superior Oil Co., found Dakota, Lakota and Sundance hard, tight and dry, and ended in the Chugwater shale beds.

Atlantic Refining Co. plugged its

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venture southeast of Castle Creek at 3475 ft. in Morrison shale, after finding nothing worth coring or testing. Recently lease brokers snapped up 80,000 acres of federal and state oil rights south of the well, in Natrona county.

Dr. Victor Ziegler, veteran geologist, unexpectedly struck rich pay in the Tensleep sand at the Bonanza anticline in Big Horn county. Drilled to only 2528 ft., the well flowed 34 gravity oil at the rate of 48 bbls. per hour, according to government inspectors. It was the first well on the structure to probe below Frontier.

Morton Oil Co., Casper independent, tested oil in the Newcastle sand a half-mile northeast of production in the new Clareton area, Weston county. Top of the Newcastle was logged at 6006 ft.

## COLORADO

The deepest hole ever drilled in Colorado was reported coring below 14,165 ft. Mountain Fuel Supply Co. may be in the Dakota sand at the wildcat in section 14-12n-100w, Hiawatha area, Moffat county, although no information has been released. The well had some gas shows in the Frontier formation around 12,600 ft. The venture is the first deep test on a large Tertiary structure which produces gas from shallow zones.

In the new Yenter area of northeastern Colorado, British-American's second well flowed 770 bbls. oil in 14 hours on a test of the "J" sand and made 400 bbls. in the ensuing eight hours. The well is an offset to the firm's discovery in the Yenter area, which was completed as a flowing producer. B-A gave its No. 1 Green in the Mount Hope area, Logan county, the hydrofrac treatment. The No. 1 Ramey in the same area made 225 bbls. daily following similar treatment.

Shell Oil Co. was squeezing perforations at the No. 2 Green, another extension in the Mount Hope area. The operator ran casing and pumped 10 bbls. black oil daily from the lower Lakota, will now test Dakota up the hole.

General Petroleum reached 9445 ft. at the Craig Dome wildcat in Moffat county, with no shows reported to date.

## NEBRASKA

British-American started operations at No. 1 Crantz, a wildcat in eastern Banner county, 30 miles northwest of the Huntsman field. This was B-A's second Nebraska venture. The first was a failure in the Murphy area of Morrill county 10 miles to the east.

C. D. Edmonson has logged 2,260,000 cubic feet of gas daily in an extension wall at the Big Springs field in Deuel county. The field is shaping up as an important new gas reserve in western Nebraska.

Nutting and Brimmer have abandoned their wildcat in section 22-14n-52w, Cheyenne county, with Lakota reached at 5872 ft. No shows were reported.

## UTAH

Location for a new wildcat in the Uintah Basin was made by Carter at No. 1 Ute Tribal in section 17-4s-4w. It will test basal Green River formation at around 7500 ft.

Carter and Stanolind were coring below 11,130 ft. in basal Green River at the No. 1 well in the Blue Bell unit. Carter is also starting another venture in the Vernal unit, where the firm drilled four failures prior to discovery of oil in commercial quantity in Utah.

Carter suspended operations for the winter at the No. 1 Burnett in the Strawberry Reservoir area, Wasatch county. Drilling stopped at 6727 ft., with plans to take it down to 10,000 in the spring.

In the San Rafael River area of Emery county, General Petroleum took cores below 4472 ft. A previous test made gas with sulfur water between 3618-3712 ft.

The California Co. reported gas volumes up to 8,000,000 cubic feet per day in the upper Green River zone at Red Wash in Uintah county. The venture was last reported coring below 4870 ft.

California Co. is moving in material for a second well on the Gusher unit, with drilling plans calling for a 9,000 ft. test.

## MONTANA

Texas Co. is completing two wells in the Big Wall field, Musselshell county. Previously the firm completed a well for a gauge of 234 bbls. oil and 40 bbls. water per day.

Cities Service is spudding a wildcat in the Widdecomb Creek area, Wheatland county. It will be a 10,000 foot test to the Charles formation.

## NEVADA

Standard of California was halted by lost circulation difficulties at the Hayden Creek venture in White Pine county. The well was believed below 1,000 ft.

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## IDAHO

Phillips Petroleum was below 12,800 ft. at the Juniper wildcat in Oneida county, after recovering fish at 12,512 ft. The well penetrated an unusually thick Permian section.

## NEW MEXICO

Oil Millionaire Clint Murchison of Dallas, Tex., heads the newly formed Utah Pipeline Co., which seeks a market in Utah for natural gas reserves in the San Juan Basin of New Mexi-

*Another NEW Shaffer Advancement . . .*

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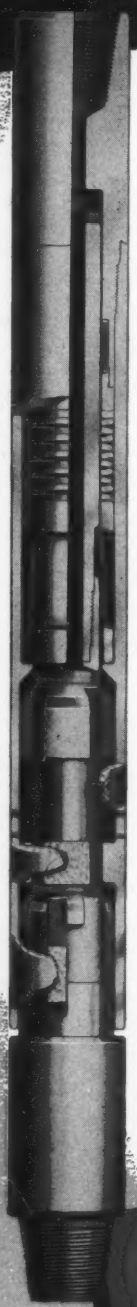

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## WHAT it is!

The new Shaffer Jar Safety Joint combines—in ONE compact tool—*both* a straight-pull Jar and a quick-releasing Safety Joint. If the stuck string cannot be jarred loose, it can then be disconnected for recovery of everything above the mandrel of the Jar Safety Joint. Later, by simply using the recovered portion of the Jar Safety Joint at the bottom of the run-in string, the recovered string can be reconnected with the stuck portion for subsequent recovery operations. The tool embodies operating principles already field-proven in other Shaffer products—and has been successfully used by leading operators under a wide range of well conditions.

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The Shaffer Jar Safety Joint not only combines two tools in one—thus saving extra costs and conserving space in the string—but it also provides greater safety and efficiency than assemblies of conventional single-purpose tools. Only a *single* pack-off is required . . . only *one* pin and *one* box . . . only a few simple parts that operate as a coordinated unit in place of many duplicated parts that cause multiple maintenance and operating problems. These and other advantages outlined at right mean safer, more efficient, and more economical operation!

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## AS A JAR

The tool strikes a powerful upward blow with simply a *straight pull* on the string. *No torque or rotation of any kind is needed to strike the blow* . . . therefore, there is no interference with operation of other tools in the string. However, full torque *can* be placed in the string if desired for loosening operations—but is not necessary to operate the Jar.

- Any number of blows can be struck in rapid succession—or single blows at any desired intervals—by simply raising and lowering the string. Every time the string is lowered the tool automatically "resets." Raising the string strikes the blow—and blows may be struck *continuously* as fast as the string can be raised and lowered.
- Force of the blow is easily adjusted over a range of 10 to 60 tons in 5 ton steps, so that virtually any desired blow can be struck.
- The tripping mechanism does not depend upon friction for operation and strikes a steady, uniform blow.
- All rotational loads are carried by heavy drive keys—not by threads. Since the drive keys are stronger than the run-in string, any amount of torque can be applied to the string—in *either* direction.

*Drive keys remain in locking slot as the blow is struck*

## AS A SAFETY JOINT

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co, Colorado and Utah. Application was made in Washington for the $32,000,000 pipeline from the isolated "four corners" area where the state lines of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona join.

The 392-mile line would carry natural gas to Cortez, Colo., and to Moab, Green River, Wellington and Price, Utah, as well as the gas-short industrial area around Salt Lake City.

Col. D. Harold Byrd, president of Byrd-Frost, Inc., which has big holdings in the San Juan Basin, told the Utah power commission that the San Juan area is the nation's richest potential oil and gas province. He said his firm is prepared to spend up to $10,000,000 drilling for natural gas in the area if the pipeline project is approved.

"There are at least one trillion cubic feet of untapped natural gas in the basin," Byrd told the commission.

The Salt Lake line, if built, would be the second major outlet for San Juan Basin gas. El Paso Natural Gas Co. is completing work on a $44,000,000 line from the Farmington-Aztec area in northern New Mexico to the California line, where it will connect with a California-wide distribution system.

Meanwhile, the New Mexico Oil Conservation commission took a dim view of the proposed Utah pipeline, although it earlier had supported the line to California. A commissioner recently said: "It's time for the southwest to take stock of its resources before it sends any more gas outside the region."

R. R. Spurrier, secretary of the conservation agency, said the San Juan operators would have to prove there are sufficient resources in the basin to support the $22 million line —which would take 96 million cubic feet per day.

Three rival firms are seeking permission to build the pipeline to Salt Lake, and no early approval of the project is foreseen at this time.

## WESTERN CANADA

Purchasers of Alberta crude oil estimated their needs for January, 1951, at the rate of 96,410 bbls. a day in placing requests before the conservation board. This was an advance of 17 percent over December requirements.

One year ago, in January 1950, production from Alberta fields was a little over 58,000 bbls. a day.

Imperial Oil, largest buyer, is prepared to handle 75,000 bbls. daily in January, of which 26,500 is needed for Regina, 18,500 for Edmonton, 12,000 bbls. for storage at Lake Superior, 4,500 bbls. a day for the Winnipeg refinery and 7,200 bbls. a day for the company's Calgary plant.

British-American estimated its requirements at Calgary at 13,300 bbls. daily and 6,400 bbls. a day for Moose Jaw.

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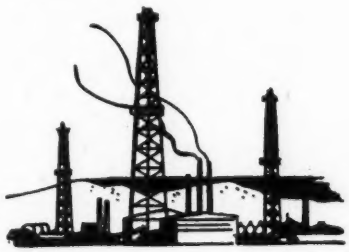
An exploration program covering 900 square miles near Edmonton was disclosed recently by Sinclair Oil Corp. The program will be undertaken by its Canadian affiliate in conjunction with British American Oil Co., Ltd.



The Kiwanis club of Edmonton has asked the provincial government to embellish car license plates with an oil derrick on the left side and the words: "Canada's Oil Province" over the number. The car licenses would advertise Alberta as the oil province.

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An interesting story of how the Canadian oil boom might have come along nearly 40 years ago was told by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Chamberlain on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary recently. Their home is on a farm in the Joseph Lake field. In 1912, drillers made a wildcat try on the Chamberlain farm, but stopped 1,800 ft. short of the oil zone discovered in 1949 by Superior.

If the 1912 crew had reached the oil sand, they might have advanced Alberta's economic development by four decades.

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The Lake Superior Refining Co. of Superior, Wis., expects to be "on stream" May 1, 1951, using 4,000 bbls. of Alberta crude oil daily. The plant formerly was the Carter Oil Co. refinery at Cut Bank, Mont. Refinery Engineering Co. of Tulsa rebuilt the refinery at Superior.

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An important southeast extension to the Leduc field has been brought in by Texaco and McColl with a well which flowed 100 bbls. hourly on a 12-hour production test. The well produced from 100 ft. of productive D2 zone which was topped at 5163 ft. Two other wells are drilling in the area.

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Close to the Montana border in southern Alberta, National Cordasun's No. 2 well produced 1,065 bbls. daily in six-day tests. The well, located west of Del Bonita, has developed as the first steady producer of the company in this area. It is being placed on pump.

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One of the thickest dual zone producing sections yet discovered in Alberta was found at Socony Vacuum-Duhamel's No. 29-14, which topped the D3 with 132 ft. of the zone above the water line in the Flint-Camrose area. Initial drill stem tests showed a gas flow of 5,000,000 cubic feet per day. Tests indicated a potential oil flow of 1,270 bbls. daily.

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In the Woodbend area northwest of Leduc field, Bay Petroleums reported its third success when the Bay Pete Woodbend No. 4 was completed for an initial potential of 105 bbls. daily thru 9.16 inch choke. The well was bottomed at 4902 ft. Bay is drilling a second well in the same section.

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The problem of gas exports from Alberta is headed for a solution early in 1951, in the opinion of Alberta officials. Several firms have made applications for pipelines to export Alberta gas, and numerous hearings have been held to determine if there will be a surplus available for export after all domestic and industrial needs of the province are satisfied.

Canadian operators anticipate that the new preparedness program in the U. S. and Canada will stimulate drilling and exploration, particularly in view of the vulnerability of Middle East sources.

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More than 2500 digests of literature delving into hydrogenation, a process of changing coal to oil, have been published in a single volume which is being distributed by the Interior Department.

## Banks Acting as Depositary Under Oil Leases

By RANDALL BOYD,
Vice President—Legal Department
Security First National Bank
of Los Angeles

The oil man or oil lawyer who first conceived the idea of naming a bank as depositary, to receive rents and royalties on behalf of the Lessors in an oil and gas lease, had a good idea. Obviously, it is to the advantage of the Lessee under such a lease to have one stable and permanent organization to which it can make such payments, thus relieving the Lessee from the necessity of keeping track of various Lessors and their successors through deaths, assignments, bankruptcies, divorce actions and various and sundry other ills and occurrences.

Such an arrangement could also be advantageous to the bank named as depositary, by directing to it business which it could handle safely and profitably. However, it would appear that the idea of having a bank act as depositary was worked out originally without prior consultation with bankers who might be or become involved in acting in such capacity. All we have to do to substantiate this statement is to examine a typical depositary clause, copied from an oil and gas lease in common use in California. This clause, which is similar in its essential respects to most other such clauses, reads as follows:

> "All royalties and rents payable in money hereunder may be paid to the Lessor by mailing or delivering a check therefor to .....Bank at ....., its successors and assigns, herein designated by the Lessor as depositary, and Lessor hereby granting to said depositary full power and authority on behalf of the Lessor, his heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, to collect and receipt for all sums of money due and payable from the Lessee to the Lessor hereunder. No change in the ownership of the land or minerals covered by this lease, and no assignment of rents or royalties shall be binding on the Lessee until it has been furnished with satisfactory written evidence thereof."

The above, and similar clauses, are all right from the standpoint of the Lessee, as they provide that "no assignment of rents or royalties shall be binding on the Lessee until it has been furnished with satisfactory evidence thereof." Anyway, the Lessee can absolve itself from any liability in connection with a possible change in the Lessor's interest, by simply paying to the bank named as depositary in the lease. But the clause gives no protection whatsoever to the depositary bank, which is the one really most entitled to such protection, against transfers of the Lessor's interest without notice to the bank. That this is a real and not a fancied liability on the part of the depositary bank is substantiated by the decision in the case of Letts v. Hancock Bank (1949), 15 So. (2) 422.

If a bank does act as depositary, naturally it expects to receive a reasonable fee for its services in this connection. However, none of the forms examined make any mention of the depositary being entitled to make a charge, and as a consequence it is sometimes difficult for the depositary to convince the recipient of payments from it that it is entitled to deduct its charges as depositary from the payments.

It is most unusual in a contract of any kind to attempt to impose duties and obligations upon someone who is not a party thereto, without that third party being first contacted, to ascertain whether it is willing to assume such duties and obligations, and whether the form which imposes the duties and obligations is satisfactory to such third party. However, possibly because it has been going on for such a long time, nobody excepting the depositary bank seems to think it is at all unusual to name a bank as depositary, without first inquiring to find out if the bank is willing to act, and whether it feels that it is adequately protected by the depositary clause in the lease.

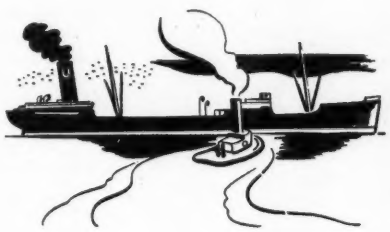
Usually the first notice a bank receives that it has been named as depositary is when a rental or royalty check in its favor as depositary arrives some time after the lease has been executed. The bank may adopt one of several courses. It may return the check to the Lessee with the statement that it did not agree to act as depositary under the lease, and that it does not care to assume the risks incident to acting under the depositary clause set forth in the lease. Or the bank may tell the Lessee that it will consent to act, providing the Lessee will agree to take all of the responsibility, and advise the bank each time who is to receive the payments, and in exactly what amounts. Or the bank may withold its consent to act as depositary until such time as all of the persons who then have any of the Lessor's interest in the lease, sign an agreement, in which they certify that they are all of the persons having such an interest, that the bank will not be bound by any changes in the Lessor's interest unless and until it receives proper written notice thereof, that they will hold the bank harmless from loss caused by a misstatement in the agreement, or any failure to notify the bank of any change in the Lessor's interest, and that they will pay the bank's reasonable charges for acting as depositary.

Much time and effort of the various parties to the lease is needlessly wasted when it becomes necessary for a bank named as depositary in an oil lease to adopt any of the above courses. This waste of time and effort could be eliminated so simply that I have been surprised that the problem has not long since been solved. All that is required is the insertion of a form of depositary clause in oil leases which, in the opinion of banks acting as depositary, adequately protects them in so acting, and provides that they are entitled to reasonable compensation for their services. The depositary clause now in use could be entirely redrawn to meet the objections set out herein, and some such wording as the following could be added at the end of the clause currently being used:

"The sole responsibility of Depositary under this lease shall be to disburse to the Lessors named herein, in the proportions set out herein, money actually paid to Depositary for such purpose by Lessee. Depositary shall not be on notice of nor have any liability in connection with any change in the ownership of the interest of any Lessor hereunder, or of any successor to any part of the interest of any Lessor, whether such change occurs by deed, assignment, decease of such Lessor or successor, legal proceedings, or otherwise, unless and until Depositary shall receive actual written notice of such change of ownership, properly authenticated and in proper form, at the office or branch of Depositary which is handling disbursements hereunder, and Depositary shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for its services hereunder."

## Oil Records Break In 1950

Records were shattered in 1950 as domestic demand for petroleum products reached an all-time peak for the eighth consecutive year and total demand, which includes petroleum exports, resumed its swing upward to establish a new high. This was reported by Frank M. Porter, president of the API, in a year-end review of the 1950 operation of the industry. He said that the ability of the industry to meet this unprecedented demand stems from the competition which spurred companies to invest $10 billion in their postwar expansion and modernization programs. Among the domestic records which toppled in the 12-month period ending December 31, 1950 were those for well completions, refinery capacity, runs to stills, and production of motor fuel, natural gas liquids and natural gas. World production of crude oil also established an all-time high. Output of domestic crude oil came to an estimated 1,973,000,000 barrels in 1950, which surpassed the 1949 total although falling short of the 1948 all-time record by about 47,000,000 barrels. Production of liquid petroleum (crude oil and natural gas liquids) soared over 2,000,000,000 barrel mark for the second time in history, exceeding the domestic total for 1949 although not the 1948 peak. Domestic demand for 1950 for the third year in a row passed 2,000,000,000 barrels. During the year current domestic demand is figured at 2,356,000,000 barrels, an average of 6,455,000 barrels daily. This is an increase of 11 per cent or 663,000 barrels a day over 1949. Total demand is calculated to be 2,461,000,000 barrels. This is an average of 6,743,000 barrels daily and far surpasses the former high of 2,248,000,000 barrels or 6,143,000 barrels a day set in 1948. Total demand in 1950 was about 10 per cent above the 1949 level of 2,233,000,000 barrels.



## Standard Stock Split

Standard Oil of California has announced a proposal for a two-for-one split of its stock outstanding. The board of directors has called a special meeting of the stockholders to be held Feb. 1. At that time the company will consider and vote upon a proposal amendment to the certificate of incorporation and to double the authorized capital stock of the company and to issue to the stockholders one additional share for each share held at the time of the split. "No change in total capital is involved," R. G. Follis, board chairman, announced. The authorized capital stock now stands at 20 million no par value shares. Standard now has 14,336,596 no par shares issued Jan. 27, 1950. The two for one split would increase outstanding shares to 28,673,192. The company has paid $5 a share in dividends this year including four quarterly dividends of $1 each and a special of $1. In anticipation of some action by the company investors have been running up the price of the stock which today reached an alltime high of 91% on the San Francisco Stock Exchange, a gain of 4½ points from yesterday's close. Its low point this year was 61.

## Lane-Wells Expands Pension Program

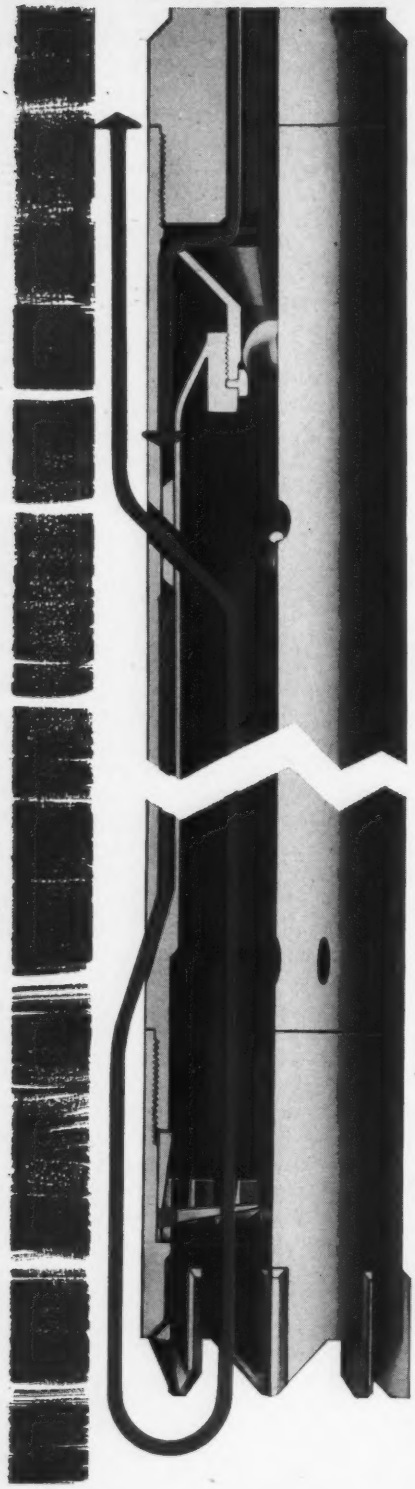
Lane-Wells Company now has one of the most modern and liberal insured pension plans in the United States, Rodney S. Durkee, president, said following payment of the current year's premium of nearly $300,000. The pension program has now been in effect four years and has just been liberalized to include life insurance coverage up to $18,000 without a medical examination, overtime pay as well as regular pay in the pension base, and underwriting the trust plan on a group insurance basis rather than through the purchase of individual policies. Pensions of retired employees receiving supplemental checks from the company have been increased $25.00 per month to meet rising living costs.

## Credit Card Big Time Saver

General Petroleum Corporation announces introduction of a new credit card system designed to cut by 50% the time consumed at service stations in consumating a credit transaction. Known as "the Mobile Credit Check Book", the system was developed by General Petroleum and the International Business Machines Corporation. It uses a tabulating card as its original invoice and credit record. Each "Chek Book" contains 25 pre-punched tabulating cards held in a leatherette folder. When a customer makes a purchase, he gives the book to the dealer who writes in the quantities purchased and the dollar and cents amounts (this may be done by the purchaser if he wishes). The customer signs the card and the dealer tears it out of the book. A stub record of the transaction remains in the book. Dealer's identification is stamped on the card after the customer leaves. The dealer turns in the card for credit with his supplier in the way he would with a conventional credit card transaction duplicate.

## Beach City Well Begins

At Huntington Beach in Orange County, the Downey Fertilizer Company has started its Red Star No. 4 well on Sec. 10-6s-11w.



THIS BOWEN JUNK BASKET

# REVERSES Normal Circulation

TO CATCH ALL BOTTOM HOLE JUNK!

TO ASSURE COMPLETE, single-run recovery of *all* bottom hole junk—bit cones, tong pins, hammers, mill cuttings, etc.,—the Bowen Junk Basket *reverses* normal circulation to literally *push* objects into the basket. Its unique action is to divert normal circulation through side passages in the barrel so that it flows out against the full bottom hole circumference. Here the mud stream is deflected in a reverse action up through the center of the catcher barrel, through return ports and on out into the up-flowing direction of normal circulation. The action of the mud flowing in a continuous stream to the center of the tool and up through the catcher barrel carries all objects into the catcher for removal on pull out of the string.

Full pump pressures can be utilized because there is no danger of mud stream pressure bearing against and causing loss of the fish. And in addition, *the full circulation principle eliminates necessity for pulling wet strings!*

The Bowen *Reverse Circulation* Junk Basket is an ideal tool for recovering all types of junk, for coring medium-hard formations and for straightening holes drilled slightly off center. It is available in sizes from 4⅜" to 17½" and is engineered to recover all types of bit cones used to drill hole sizes within its range.

**REVERSE Circulation AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE ONLY!**

For details—call the Bowen Service Store in your territory or write direct to . . .

**BOWEN FISHING TOOL COMPANY**

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# Personalities IN THE NEWS

## Minckler Heads Western Oil and Gas Association

Robert L. Minckler, president of the General Petroleum Corporation, recently was elected president of the Western Oil and Gas Association, succeeding Reese H. Taylor, president of the Union Oil Company of California, who had served as president for the past two years.

R. L. Minckler

Other officers elected by the Board of Directors include William Reinhardt, vice-president, Union Pacific Railroad Company, first vice-president; William F. Humphrey, president, Tide Water Associated Oil Company, second vice-president; L. K. Whittier, vice-president, Belridge Oil Company, treasurer; John M. Peirce, vice-president and general manager, and D. S. Kilgour, secretary.

The Association, established in California in 1906, has a membership representing approximately 90 per cent of the production, manufacture or wholesale distribution of petroleum products in the five western states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Thirty-one incumbent members of the Board were re-elected. John W. Hancock, executive vice-president of the Hancock Oil Company of California, was elected to a directorship vacated by Will J. Reid, president of Hancock.

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Earl G. Le Sage, Comptroller and Purchasing Agent for Regan Forge and Engineering Company, died late last month of a heart attack. Le Sage, 45 years old, had been with the San Pedro, California firm for eleven years.

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Richard B. Atchison, 57, Los Angeles advertising executive, passed away December 20 after a brief illness. Atchison, affectionately known as "Atch" to his host of friends in newspaper and advertising circles, was born in Mexico, Missouri, and was an alumni of the Universities of Missouri and Colorado. During the past 23 years, he has been associated with The White Motor Company directly and in the Los Angeles advertising agency that bears his name. He leaves his widow, Georgia, and son, Richard. His mother resides in Mexico, Missouri, and a brother "Bill" Atchison in Portland.

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Genial Frank Morgan, vice president in charge of production and development for Richfield Oil, was the chief speaker at the recent meeting of the Natural Gasoline Association. His topic was "Cuyama Valley." The meeting was held at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, Downey.

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George J. Schulte, Jr., has been appointed assistant director of the LP-Gas Information Service, Chicago. This was reported by Lee A. Brand, chairman of the national committee for LP-gas promotion.

## Bates Advances at Shell

W. F. Bates has been appointed general drilling superintendent of Shell Oil Company effective January 1, according to an announcement by E. W. Masters, Production Manager, Los Angeles.

W. F. Bates

He will replace C. S. Penfield who is retiring the first of the year after more than thirty-five years with Shell.

Bates was graduated from Stanford University in 1933 in engineering and joined the company soon afterwards as a roustabout. Two years ago when Shell announced the successful completion of a deep-well portable drilling rig, Bates was in charge of the project. He has had wide experience in all phases of oil field operations, specializing during the past few years in drilling operations.

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William J. Borwick is the new assistant district manager for Los Angeles of United States Steel Supply Company, a U. S. Steel subsidiary, H. J. Bruckner, assistant manager, announced.

Paul Cavins, widely known oil field supply manufacturer, has returned from a tour through southwestern states, including visits at Fort Worth, Dallas and New Orleans. The trip, which was taken by air and of four weeks duration, was designed for both business and pleasure.

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General Petroleum Corporation supervisors in the Northern California division have organized the General Petroleum Supervisory Association, Northern California. It was designed as an effort to promote better understanding between the various activities in the northern part of the state and between the Northern California division and other General Petroleum activities in the Los Angeles Basin area and elsewhere. Current officers of the association are F. L. Paul, president; J. F. Lyons, vice president, and H. B. Worden, secretary-treasurer.

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William Otis Hobba, son of former Mayor William J. Hobba of Signal Hill, is reported missing in action by the War Department. For his services in the second World War, Hobba, a lieutenant in the Air Force, was awarded the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters.

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Laurence Andrew, manager of the General Petroleum pipeline department, retired January 1 after serving 38 years with the company. He joined Geepee in 1912 when the company's pipeline was under construction from San Joaquin Valley to Los Angeles, a major engineering feat of that day. His first post was as a division superintendent. He has been manager of pipelines since January, 1950. Also retiring on the first of the year were Richard A. Brooks, assistant treasurer and assistant comptroller; Thomas R. Evans, chief pipeline dispatcher; and R. C. Jones, superintendent of engineers in the marine department.

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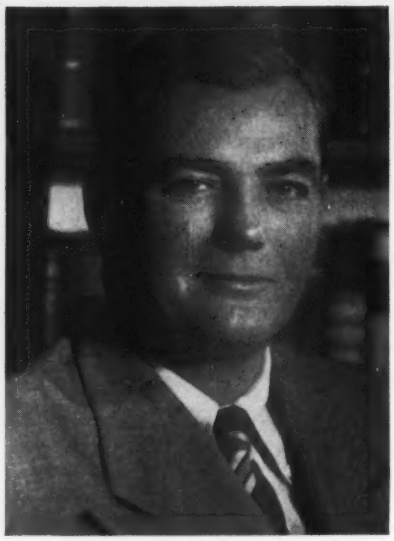
Effective January 1 last, W. F. Bates has been appointed general drilling superintendent of Shell Oil Company. He replaces C. S. Penfield, who retired after more than 35 years with the company.



**HERBERT HOOVER, JR.**
**(Newly elected Director of Union Oil Company of California)**

Lieut. Edward Dale Slovek, 27, formerly with Signal Oil Company in the Pacific Northwest, gave his life in attempting to land a burning Navy plane in the Columbia River. He apparently chose to remain with his burning plane rather than endanger the lives of people in nearby St. Helens, Ore.

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A. J. Eardley, geologist of the University of Utah at Salt Lake, was the speaker featured at the meeting of the Pacific section, American Association of Petroleum Geologists in the General Petroleum Auditorium, Los Angeles. Prof. Eardley discussed the North American continent.

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President C. A. Johnson of Holly Development Company announces the election of Lawrence Vander Leck and P. J. Hallicy as directors. Vander Leck, who succeeds the late Roy Lacy, entered the oil industry upon his graduation from the University of California in 1915. He is an executive of the Independent Petroleum Association of America and past president of the Oil Producers Agency of California. For five years he was chairman of the Conservation Committee of California Oil Producers and during the second World War was Director of Production in District 5. He is now active as a petroleum consultant. Hallicy has been with Holly Development since its inception 27 years ago. He has served in various capacities with the company since and for the past three years has been secretary. Los Angeles offices are in the Rowan Building.

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The Federal Government has taken over complete control of rubber supplies. An official statement pointed out that it is necessary for the Government to take over the natural rubber buying and distributing program "to safeguard the supply and to assure that it is distributed and utilized most advantageously to the national defense." The Government previously had inaugurated a program whereby it allocates to tire and other rubber companies all natural and synthetic rubber. Incidentally, world output of natural rubber in 1950 was at a record high of 1,850,000 tons. This compared with 1,487,500 tons in 1949 and the previous peak level of 1,600,000 in 1941.

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Sen. Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, may return to Washington this month. A key figure in United States foreign relations, illness has kept the Senator from the Senate most of the time in 1950.

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## Petroleum Demand History's Greatest

Upsurging civilian and military requirements will combine in 1951 to create the greatest demand in history for petroleum products. In a statement summarizing the oil industry's achievements in 1950 and its prospects for 1951, Robert G. Dunlop, president of Sun Oil Company, said that the oil industry is preparing to meet the challenge. "Fortunately," he said, "the industry finds itself better prepared today to meet its new responsibilities than it was at the start of World War II. As a result of the investment by competing companies of $10,000,000,000 in postwar expansion and modernization programs, its capacity in general has been increased approximately 25 per cent in the last five postwar years." From the viewpoint of the consumer, the oil executive pointed out that the oil industry in 1950 offered better values than ever before.

## Nomads December Meeting

The Los Angeles Chapter of Nomads held the last meeting of the year at the Jonathan Club on Wednesday, December 13, 1950. The attendance was excellent, the food good as usual, and good fellowship prevailed as it always does at the Nomads meetings.

Fred Ripley made a very interesting report on the meeting of the Board of Regents held during the November API Meeting at Los Angeles. Fred is doing the same bang-up job as head of the Board of Regents as he did as president of the Nomads. It is this kind of work that has made the Nomads so successful, particularly the Los Angeles Chapter.

Bill Bettis, Chairman of the Nominating committee announced the following slate for the election to be held next month for the Nomads officers for the ensuing year:

President, Jerry Engstrand; Vice President, Earl Rees; Treas., John Flanagan; Secretary, Bill Wilson; Sgt. at Arms, Jim Hughes; Deputy Sgt. at Arms, Bill Sargent; Asst. Treas., Vern Mitchell; Asst. Secy., George Gutekunst; Regents, Lee Laird, Earle Boggess.

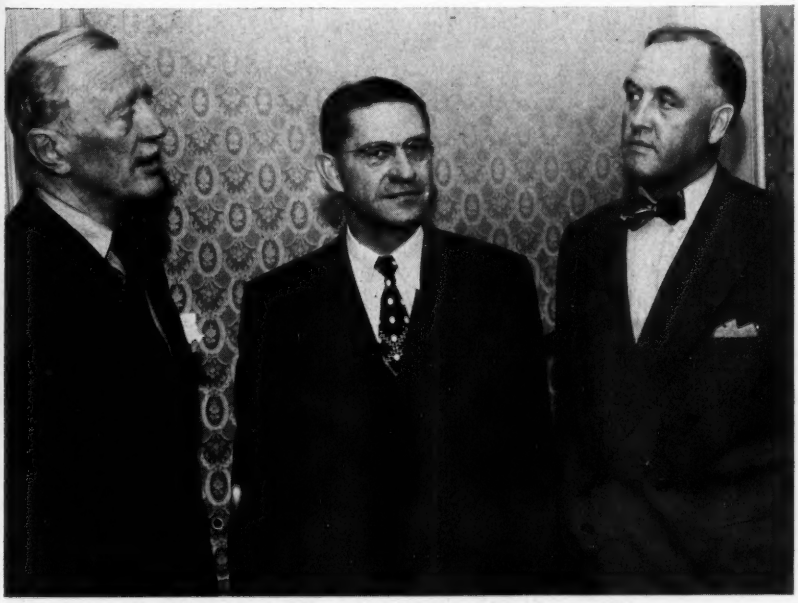
Your reporter is a little confused as to whether the nominations were closed or not, an amusing and intriguing discourse was had as to the privilege of doing so at this meeting, however, I think they were closed as no other nominations were offered at that time.

**Foreign visitors at the December Nomad Meeting: Seated, left to right: Bob Block; E. L. Davis, Arctic Contractors; Dwight Hamill, Arabian American Oil; Dr. Egard Frias R. Sociedodo Com. de Mat. Pr., Ltda.; standing, left to right: Z. W. McCoy, Colombian Pet. Co.; John R. Drum, Shell C.P.C. and Paul H. Arnot, Arabian American Oil Co.**

The following foreign guests were welcome visitors and we all sincerely hope that we will have the pleasure of their company at meetings in the near future: Paul H. Arnot, Arabian American Oil Co., Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia; Z. W. McCoy, Colombian Petroleum Co.; Ernest Smith, Socony Vacuum Oil Co.; E. L. Davis, Arctic Contractors, Fairbanks, Alaska; Dr. Edgard Frias R., Sociedado Com. de Mat Pr, Ltd., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; John R. Drum, Shell CPC Maracaibo, Venezuela; Dwight Hamill, Arab-American Oil Co.; Robert H. Hadow, British Consul-General.

The principal speakers were introduced by Jerry Engstrand. They were Mr. Robert H. Hadow, British Consul-General for Southern California, and Mr. R. J. "Bob" Kettenburg of the Shell Group. Mr. Kettenburg gave a great deal of credit to the fine assistance a buyer receives from the engineers and salesmen of the oil tool manufacturing and service businesses. Those were kind words, Mr. Kettenburg, and we are all duly appreciative.

Mr. Hadow kept us all listening attentatively. His opinions and remarks were very timely in these days of strife and stress and uncertainty. It was good to know that we have such men as Mr. Hadow and Mr. Hadow's countrymen on our side. As he said, we frequently disagree, but nevertheless we do stick together for our common good. Come again, Mr. Hadow, we would like to hear more from you.



**Robert H. Hadow, R. J. Kettenburg, Jerry Engstrand.**

## Schlumberger to Build New Office and Plant

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation has begun construction of a new $3,000,000 home office and plant to be located on a 36-acre tract with 900 foot frontage in the 5000 block of the Gulf Freeway, Pierre Schlumberger, president, announced this week. Construction will be completed in approximately one year.

The new Schlumberger headquarters and plant will consist of six main buildings which will have a total of 235,000 square feet of floor area. The Administration Building will be a modern two-story wing building with a three-story center bay. It will face 500 feet along the Gulf Freeway and will have approximately 50,000 square feet of floor space. Other buildings will be the Engineering Building, Warehouse, Truck Shop, Instrument Production Shop and the Engineering Testing-Power Plant Building.

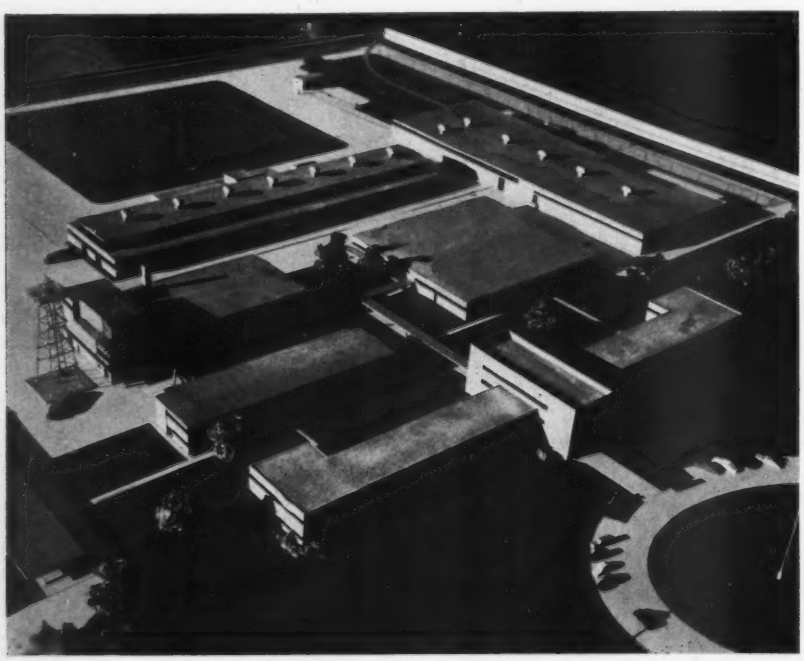
An 800 foot deep test well will be drilled just outside the testing laboratory. The well will be cased with a nonconductive porous material so that oilfield electrical logging conditions can be simulated for testing of equipment. A second shallow test well will be drilled in which pressure can be built up to twelve thousand pounds per square inch and temperatures increased to above three hundred degrees Fahrenheit. This well will be capable of reproducing conditions in the deepest wells now being drilled. It also will be a part of the testing laboratory.

Steel and masonry construction will be used throughout, and all buildings, except the warehouse and truck shop will be air-conditioned. A covered parking area and a large cafeteria will be provided for employees.

The decision to build a new and larger home office and plant was dictated by the fact that the organization has completely outgrown the present plant at 2720 Leeland, Mr. Schlumberger said. There are now nearly 500 employees in the Houston office and plant and the new buildings will be designed to give better working conditions with closer control between departments, he added.

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation, one of the largest service companies in the oil industry, furnishes the industry with a number of different types of specialized services for both drilling and producing wells.

Architectural and engineering work for the new Schlumberger buildings was done by the Walter Kidde Company of Houston and New York. Tellepsen Construction Company has been awarded the contract for the construction work.



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## Regan Forge Makes A.P.I. Awards

Entries in the Regan Forge and Engineering Company "International Contest", conducted during the annual A.P.I. meeting, were judged early last month.

The top award, a 19 jewel, 14 kt. solid gold case Hamilton wrist watch, went to H. M. Noel, process engineer for Esso Laboratories, Standard Oil Company, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

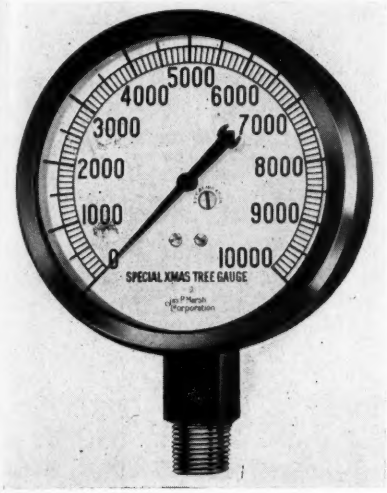
To qualify for the award, Noel correctly translated ten Regan testimonials and identified the language used.

Second place award winner was a senior engineering student of petroleum and mechanical engineering enrolled at the University of Texas.

Three men tied for third place in the competition: Boyd L. Embry, Lion Oil Company, Eldorado, Arkansas; Clark Baker, Amerada Petroleum Corp., Jackson, Miss., and Donald M. Sturznickle, The Texas Company, White Plains, N. Y.

## New Xmas Tree Gauge For The Petroleum Industry

A new pressure gauge, specifically designed for use on Xmas trees, has been announced by Marsh Instrument Company, sales affiliate of Jas. P. Marsh Corporation, Skokie, Illinois.




An important basic innovation in the construction of the gauge is a new method of joining the bourdon tube to the socket of the gauge and joining the end-piece to the bourdon tube. In the words of the manufacturer "By a new process, the bourdon tube is Conowelded into the socket and to the end-piece to form the equivalent of one-piece construction. In this way the unit that has always been most difficult to keep leak-tight is permanently sealed for the life of the instrument." The new construction is to be known as the "Conoweld" tube.

Another innovation is the use of a heavy gauge wrought steel, copper-clad case. It is described as non-corrosive, four times as strong as a cast case and one-third lighter and with all the advantages of plastic or die cast cases and none of the disadvantages. After the case is copper-clad and formed, it is finished in a new, tough, corrosion-resistant, satin-black enamel.

The movement used in the Xmas Tree Gauge is the Marsh "Mastergauge" movement which has been widely employed in Marsh 'Mastergauges" that are especially designed to stand up under the pulsating pressures and extreme vibration encountered in oil country service. It is a particularly rugged movement in a stainless steel and monel, the unlike metals giving a self-lubricating and virtually frictionless effect. It features a new type "coined sector". The new gauge is being manufactured in all required pressure ranges.

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## Nevada Wildcats Drilling Ahead

Standard of California and Continental Oil Company are drilling ahead with their joint wildcat well in the Hayden Creek area, White Pine County, Nev. Location is in Idaho Valley, two miles up Hayden Creek from the main highway. The combination's previous test well, Meridian No. 1, quit a production failure at 10,314 ft. The present effort is known as Hayden Creek Unit No. 1 and at last reports was digging at 682 ft. Approximately 18 miles southwest of Las Vegas, Black Gold Oil Company is drilling in the shallower formations with its Golden Spike No. 1 explorer, according to reports from the field. The well is on a 10,000 acre lease block on the Arden Dome structure. The structure has been reported favorable from a prospective standpoint by Ralph Arnold and L. Morgan West, geologists, respectively. Dr. D. F. Hewitt, U. S. Geological Survey, is also understood to have recommended a thorough test of oil possibilities in the Arden Dome area. This includes trials of the Permian, Pennsylvania, Mississippian and Devonian formations.

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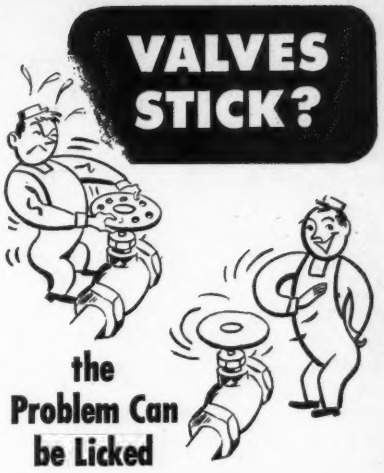
## Gas Group Organized

Involving a total consideration of $36,000,000 a group of Western industrial and investment men has made what is believed as a record purchase of natural gas reserves. The group was formed by William R. Staats & Company of Los Angeles to organize a new corporation for the production and development of gas properties in the Mid-Continent area. Known as the Hugoton Plains Gas and Oil Company, the new organization is comprised of three principal stockholders. They are J. Simon Fluor, William R. Staats Company and Fred R. Tuerk. Officers are Fluor, president; Tuerk, chairman of the board; Donald Bryce, vice president; G. Hamilton Beasley, treasurer; and Dewey F. Gruenhagen, secretary.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The country's natural gas industry has allocated about a $1,000,000,000 for construction and expansion during the year current. D. A. Hulcy, president of the American Gas Association, announced that the industry is proceeding with its 1950-1954 expansion program, calling for the spending of approximately $3,154,000,000, of which some $2,750,000,000 is for natural gas facilities. Some $875,000,000 of this program is slated for 1951.

# THIS

# LAUGH OFF!!

George: "This new book on health says that bathing alone won't keep you healthy."

Gracie: "I don't care what that book says, I'm going to keep right on bathing alone."

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Landlady: "I thought I saw you taking a gentleman up to your apartment last night, Miss Brown."

Miss Brown: "Yeah—that's what I thought too."

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Customer: "I'd like to see some nice nightgowns, please."

Clerk: "For your wife, sir, or do you wish something better?"

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Her lips quivered as they approached his. His whole frame trembled as he looked into her eyes. Her chin vibrated and his body shuddered and he held her close to him.

The moral of this: Never kiss a girl in a jeep with the engine running.

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A young man contemplating matrimony wanted to propose and didn't know how, so he went to his dad for advice.

"Well, son," said the old man, "I don't know that I can help you much. With me and your Maw it happened one Sunday evening, when yer Maw and me was asittin' on the sofa. We was just a-talkin' along and purty soon yer Maw leaned over and whispered in my ear and I said, 'The hell you are,' and the next day we were married."

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Mr. and Mrs. White were doing a little fly hunting about the house.

"How many have you caught?" she asked after a while.

"Six," replied the husband. "Three males and three females."

"How absurd! How could you tell if they were males or females?"

"Easy, my dear," he said. "Three were on the sugar and three were on the mirror."

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"Daddy," he asked, "is my kitten a man kitten or a lady kitten?"

Everyone on the bus listened.

"A man kitten," said the father.

"How do you know?" the child persisted.

You could have heard a pin drop as the father promptly replied, "Well, he has whiskers, hasn't he?"

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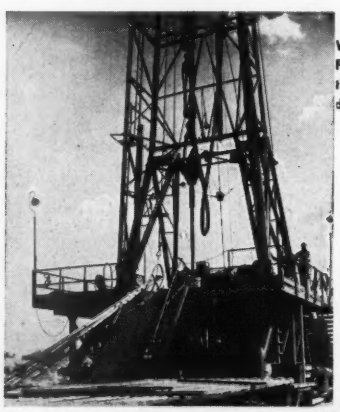

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